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A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc.

NOVEMBER 1983

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration • engineering • operations

Survey: Data Processing Use Is Multiplying

Innovative Approaches To Water Treatment

A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration · engineering · operations

November 1983

Vol. 98, No. 11

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About the Cover

Mechanistic cloning? No, this room of modern data processing machines reflects the growing importance of such business equipment. AC&C's data processing survey appears on page 42. (Our thanks to Rod Ratcliffe for both this and last month's cover and inside photos.)

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Data Processing Survey Shows Use Is Multiplying

Of the 83 percent of respondents who said they use data processing, most indicate their systems are in-house and budgets are increasing.

As public pressure mounts for more reliable and cost-effective methods of operation, local governments are increasing their use of data processing. As a result, data processing budgets are also experiencing steady increases as more uses for the equipment are found. In particular, in-house systems are increasingly in vogue as public officials and employees become more comfortable with the advanced technology.

These are some of the conclusions made based on the results of a national survey on data processing use, conducted recently by AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY. A total of 3,000 questionnaires were mailed to city clerks and other public employees involved with data processing at the local government level. The response rate was nearly 25 percent, with 743 responses returned.

Every section of the United States is represented in the final results, with the largest number of responses coming from the North Central region (31 percent) and the fewest from the South Atlantic area (11.6 percent). Both townships and municipalities are well represented, with the bulk of the responses (81 percent) originating from areas with populations between 10,000 and 49,999. Communities in the 50,000 to 249,999 population range make up 18 percent of the responses; and larger cities, with populations over 250,000, represent the final 1 percent.

The three-page survey asked questions such as: Do you utilize data processing in any department? What was your approximate data processing budget in 1982? Do you have an in-house computer system? Who is the primary manufacturer? In which year was it installed? For what functions do you use data processing?

While the survey results are not scientific, they do indicate certain trends, as well as demonstrate the wide range of functions for which data processing is currently being used. For instance, the results clearly show that smaller townships rely less on data processing than do larger cities. In fact, when asked if data processing was used, 63 percent of the townships said yes, as opposed to 88 percent of the municipalities. Overall, 83.4 percent of the 743 respondents said they used data processing.

In-house systems are used by 82 percent of the survey respondents who said they utilized data processing.

According to the survey, data processing budgets run the gamut, from under $20,000 annually to over $500,000 per year. Most respondents (47.7 percent) indicated their budgets were under $100,000 in 1982. More than 9 percent said they spent over $500,000 on data processing last year.

The figures show that population size has a direct bearing on data processing budgets. While, overall, 13.5 percent of total respondents said they spent less than $20,000, 33 percent of the townships had budgets that low, and over 25 percent of the municipalities had budgets over $200,000.

Approximately half of all respondents said that their data processing budgets increased in both 1982 and 1983. Most increases were in the 1-10 percent range in both years (27 percent in 1982 and 29 percent in 1983), while a

significant portion (10 percent and 8 percent, respectively) experienced budget jumps of 11 percent to 20 percent.

Another significant trend indicated by the survey is that larger communities are more likely to keep their data processing operations in-house rather than seek the services of an outside source. A high percentage of the respondents who said they used data processing (82 percent) said their systems were in-house, with a higher figure for municipalities (84 percent) than for townships (67 percent). Also, cities and towns with lower data processing budgets are less likely to have in-house systems.

IBM is by far the most widely used data processing equipment of those who answered the survey. Over 33 percent said they had IBM equipment, with cities over 250,000 population even more likely to opt for the corporate giant (50 percent). Burroughs was the second choice of suppliers with nearly 17 percent. NCR was third at over 13 percent and is very popular with communities in the 10,000 to 24,999 population range. Other suppliers mentioned prominently were Data General, Digital Equipment Corporation, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, Sperry-Univac and Wang.

A majority of the respondents who said they use in-house data processing said they installed their equipment from 1980 to 1982 (57 percent), with 1981 the busiest year at 22 percent.

The popularity of data processing can be directly related to the versatility of the equipment, judging by the survey, with a wide range of functions available to local governments. Accounting jobs, performed by data processing, were by far the most often mentioned. However, assessments, budgeting and management, voter registration, public safety, treasury/collection, purchasing/inventory, utilities, planning and zoning, and sanitation also registered significant responses.

Even such topics as animal licenses, bike registration, disease control, drug abuse, and a variety of education-related uses were mentioned as areas where data processing is used.

With this versatility tied to the time and cost-saving qualities inherent with today's data processing systems, it should not be surprising that so many local governments of all sizes increasingly utilize data processing. Eventually, more jobs will be put on the systems in the future, perhaps relieving some of the public pressure for more efficient and cost-effective local government operations. □

By Ken Anderberg

Data Processing Survey

Do you utilize data processing? *

	Total	Townships	Municipalities	Population Size: 10,000-49,000	50,000-249,999	250,000 and above
Yes (%)	83.4	63.4	87.8	80.2	97.0	100.0
No (%)	16.3	35.1	12.2	19.5	3.0	0
In-house?**						
Yes (%)	81.6	67.1	83.9	78.6	91.5	100.0
No (%)	17.6	32.9	15.1	20.4	8.5	0
Do you plan to use data processing in 1983?*						
Yes (%)	81.6	64.9	85.2	78.8	94.0	80.0
No (%)	10.9	23.9	8.0	13.2	1.5	0

* Based on 743 responses, including: 134 townships and 609 municipalities.
** Based on those responding who utilize data processing, including: 620 total, 85 townships, and 535 municipalities.

1982 Data Processing Budget *

	Total	Townships	Municipalities	Population Size: 10,000-49,999	50,000-249,999	250,000 and above
$50,000 or less	29.5%	55.3%	25.4%	36.6%	4.7%	10.0%
$51,000-200,000	30.8	21.2	32.3	32.8	25.6	0
$201,000-400,000	11.0	2.4	12.3	7.5	24.0	10.0
$401,000 and above	11.9	4.7	13.1	3.1	40.3	70.0
No answer	16.8	16.5	16.8	20.0	5.4	10.0

Comparison of 1983 Budget With 1982 *

Total higher	47.7%	40.0%	49.0%	23.5%	58.9%	70.0%
No change	21.1	20.0	21.3	21.6	20.2	10.0
Total lower	11.1	17.6	10.1	10.8	11.6	20.0

* Based on 620 respondents who utilize data processing.

Primary Manufacturer

(Of respondents with in-house computers)

	Total	Townships	Municipalities	Population Size: 10,000-49,999	50,000-249,999	250,000 and above
IBM	33.4%	15.8%	35.6%	33.6%	31.4%	50.0%
Burroughs	16.6	21.1	16.0	15.9	19.5	10.0
NCR	13.4	14.0	13.4	14.3	11.9	0
Hewlett-Packard	5.9	0	6.7	6.1	5.9	0
Data General	5.1	14.0	4.0	6.1	2.5	0
Digital	4.7	7.0	4.5	3.7	8.5	0
Sperry-Univac	4.5	1.8	4.9	4.0	5.9	10.0
Wang	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.0	2.5	0
Honeywell	2.6	1.8	2.7	1.0	5.9	20.0
Other	8.7	17.5	7.6	10.1	5.1	0

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Functions for Which In-House Data Processing Is Used

	Total	Townships	Municipalities	Population Size 10,000-49,999	50,000-249,999	250,000 and above
Accounting						
General accounting	90.9%	82.5%	92.0%	91.0%	90.7%	90.0%
Check preparation	89.9	82.5	90.9	89.7	90.7	90.0
Payroll	91.7	87.7	92.2	92.1	91.5	80.0
Retirement/Pension	51.4	50.9	51.4	45.5	69.5	60.0
General ledger	85.8	73.7	87.3	85.7	86.4	80.0
Financial statements	70.4	54.4	72.4	72.8	64.4	50.0
Revenue ledger	83.6	64.9	86.0	82.5	87.3	80.0
Expenditure ledger	85.0	71.9	86.6	84.4	87.3	80.0
Assessment						
Real property records	36.8%	43.9%	35.9%	35.2%	41.5%	40.0%
Personal property	26.1	35.1	24.9	25.9	27.1	20.0
Listing of all property	37.2	49.1	35.6	35.7	41.5	40.0
Budgeting & Management						
Expenditure forecasts	41.5%	33.3%	42.5%	39.2%	49.2%	40.0%
Revenue forecasts	38.3	29.8	39.4	37.0	42.4	40.0
Budget preparation	72.3	54.4	74.6	69.6	81.4	70.0
Budget monitoring	73.9	63.2	75.3	73.0	77.1	70.0
Voter Registration						
Registration records	21.1%	33.3%	19.6%	20.1%	25.4%	10.0%
Voter mailing list	18.8	31.6	17.1	17.2	23.7	20.0
Vote counting	10.7	17.5	9.8	7.7	7.6	20.0
Registration deletion	18.8	29.8	17.4	17.5	23.7	10.0
Public Safety						
Uniform crime reporting	32.6%	28.1%	33.2%	24.6%	55.9%	60.0%
Other crime reporting	28.9	19.3	30.1	21.4	49.1	70.0
Traffic/parking violations	34.4	24.6	35.6	27.5	55.1	50.0
Traffic accidents	30.0	22.8	31.8	22.5	51.7	60.0
Treasury/Collection						
Property tax records & billing	36.6%	64.9%	33.0%	35.7%	38.1%	50.0%
Special assessment tax records	36.2	36.8	36.1	31.7	49.2	50.0
Business licenses	38.7	7.0	42.8	33.6	54.2	50.0
Payroll deductions	64.4	50.9	66.1	63.2	69.5	50.0
Utilities						
Water	72.3%	28.1%	78.0%	74.6%	66.1%	60.0%
Electrictiy	15.0	0	16.9	17.5	8.5	0
Sewerage	11.7	10.5	11.8	13.0	8.5	0
Purchasing/Inventory	29.4%	8.8%	32.1%	26.5%	38.1%	40.0%
Planning/Zoning	15.4%	8.8%	16.3%	10.8%	28.0%	40.0%
Sanitation	27.9%	8.8%	30.3%	26.5%	32.2%	30.0%

Data Processing

Plan Helps Automation In Virginia

By James D. Ham
Data Processing Manager
James City County, Virginia

When data processing services are operating relatively smoothly, why upset the apple cart? That's the question James City County, Virginia, officials asked before deciding to come up with a five-year plan for office automation. The answers proved most rewarding.

No particular problem led to the decision to create the plan. In fact, the county data processing office has successfully implemented software systems and increased the level of services provided to the county and the Williamsburg/James City Community School Board since introducing automated data processing in 1978. However, several unexpected hardware upgrades had been required since that time. Also, requests for automation services have been on the rise, especially in such non-financial areas as planning and police operations.

In order to meet these requests, the county needed to avoid unplanned or forced hardware upgrades. In expectation of increased workloads and more demands for automation, the county and school board created a joint data processing steering committee. The charge before the committee was fivefold:

- Approve long- and short-range data processing plans;
- recommend major acquisitions of data processing equipment;
- review data processing capital budget requests;
- determine priorities among major projects; and
- review methods for allocating costs among users.

As its first major activity, the committee formed a subcommittee to develop a long-range plan for automation. The plan was to project automation needs for a five-year period, and provide direction for satisfying those needs in an orderly, cost-effective manner.

The subcommittee consisted of the data processing manager, two persons

(Continued on page 48)

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

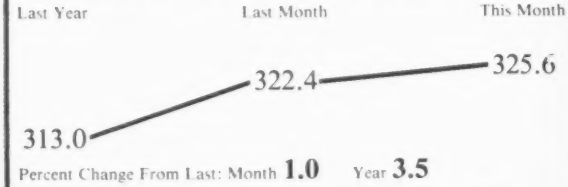
	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	143.3	0.1	5.8
Apparel	197.1	0.3	1.9
Asphalt Roofing	383.9	1.5	−2.2
Books	121.6	0.7	—
Chemicals, Industrial	338.8	−0.2	−3.1
Coal	535.5	0.3	−0.7
Concrete Products	302.2	0.3	1.3
Construction Machinery	352.7	0.1	1.8
Diesel Fuel	681.3	0.3	−14.3
Electric Lamps	313.2	0.9	9.8
Electric Power	425.1	1.3	2.4
Electric Components	185.2	2.3	5.3
Engines, I.C.	341.2	−0.1	2.9
Fans and Blowers	337.0	0	0.8
Fertilizers, Mixed	259.8	−0.2	−4.1
Floor Coverings	185.1	2.5	3.2
Footwear	249.9	0.4	1.1
Foundry Products	351.0	0.1	1.6
Fuel Oil No. 2	721.6	−0.7	−13.9
Furniture, Commercial	287.9	0.3	3.6
Gasoline	621.2	1.3	−10.6
Generator Sets	330.7	2.6	−4.0
Glass	229.8	0	1.6
Glass Containers	351.7	0	−1.6
Gypsum Products	276.0	0.9	8.7
Hardware	289.7	0.2	3.4
Heating Equipment	244.0	0.6	2.3
HVAC Controls	121.5	0.1	—
LP Gas	730.0	1.9	—
Lubricants	349.9	0.2	−0.4
Lumber	372.5	0.3	—
Metal Fabrications	302.2	0.1	−0.7
Millwork	296.1	0.5	5.7
Motor Vehicle Parts	352.8	0.1	2.4
Mowers	253.8	1.0	—
Natural Gas	1423.2	−1.5	3.5
Office Machines	154.6	0.2	1.5
Paint	265.6	0.2	—
Paper	281.7	0.8	−1.5
Passenger Cars	217.5	0	1.3
Plumbing Fixtures	292.1	0.5	6.3
Plywood	252.5	−0.4	23.2
Portland Cement	340.0	0.1	1.3
Pumps	347.7	0.1	0
Residual Fuel	1122.4	1.8	−10.2
Sand and Gravel	286.2	0	1.1
Sanitary Papers	358.6	−0.2	1.1
Soaps, Detergents	261.5	0	3.4
Sporting Goods	206.3	0	−1.4
Steel Mill Products	349.9	0.3	—
Struc. Clay Prod.	281.7	0.3	8.8
Switchgear	267.6	−0.1	2.8
Tires and Tubes	242.7	−0.5	−5.9
Transformers	224.1	0	−0.2
Trucks	313.5	0.2	3.9
Valves	99.9	−0.3	—
Wire and Cable	204.4	−0.5	—
Wiring Devices	336.1	−0.2	3.6

Despite stable commodity prices, the **Municipal Cost Index** rose a sharp 1 percent due largely to higher construction materials costs and an increase in the **Consumer Price Index.** However, recent rises in commodity prices have some analysts predicting that the U.S. inflation rate will rise for the remainder of this year and the first quarter of 1984. This could translate into higher overall costs to municipalities in 1984 than earlier anticipated.

Due to technical difficulties in acquiring the necessary statistical information, these **Indexes** did not appear in the past two issues of AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY.

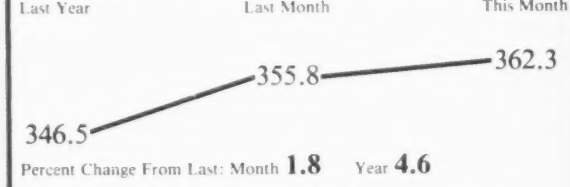
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



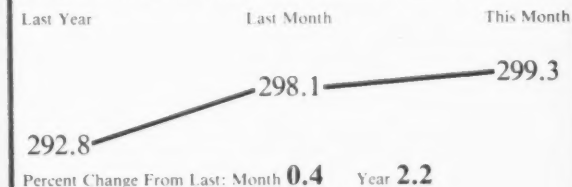
Percent Change From Last: Month **1.0** Year **3.5**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



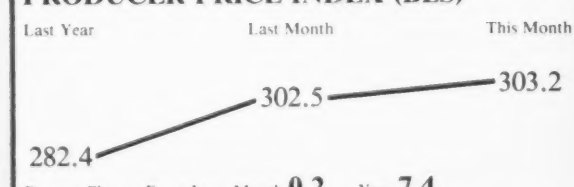
Percent Change From Last: Month **1.8** Year **4.6**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.4** Year **2.2**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **7.4**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	461.7B	2.4	7.8
Federal Grants	86.5B	0.8	1.6
Durable Purchases	14.2B	2.2	7.6
Consumables	31.2B	1.3	0
Services	325.4B	1.8	7.7
Structures	37.7B	−4.6	−7.6
Salaries, Wages	238.1B	1.8	7.7
Surplus	40.4B	22.8	40.1
Employment	12.855M	−0.7	−1.6

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DECEMBER 1983

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration

Kentucky Capitol Capitalizing On Computerized Energy System

District Heating Getting Into Hot Water

A Publication of Communication Channels Inc

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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December 1983 Vol. 98, No. 12

FEATURES

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Study found that illumination of freeways resulted in a 21 percent savings.

22 Inadequate Lighting a Liability Worry
Cutting back on street lighting could make local government liable for accidents.

26 District Heating in U.S. Getting Into Hot Water
Europeans know the benefits of heating concept, but growth is slow in America.

28 Trenton and St. Paul Lead U.S. District Heating Revival
One community uses coal to heat water, the other opts for cogeneration system.

30 Steam Heating Came First; Now It's Hot Water's Turn
District Heating begun in the U.S. a century ago and is now enjoying a rebirth.

32 Computer Puts Books in Order
Greenlee County, Arizona, straightened out its accounting problems with a minicomputer.

33 Kentucky Capital "Wired" To Save Energy and Money
Frankfort's capital energy conservation project contributes to fiscal health.

37 Should You Hire an Engineer or use an Outside Consultant?
Research should be conducted before local officials make this important decision.

37 Experience a Priority in Selection of A/E
Survey shows that most public officials prefer negotiating over bidding.

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Energy management system comes to the rescue after electric rates skyrocketed.

42 Phoenix Resolves Office Woes With Open-plan Environments
Municipal offices redesigned to improve city employee morale and productivity.

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About the Cover

As energy rates become a greater concern, local governments are looking for ways to reduce their energy bills. Frankfort, Kentucky, has installed a computerized energy management system which governs the State Capitol and 19 other buildings.

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.2 percent for the month due to gains in the **Producer Price Index** and **Consumer Price Index**. A slight decrease in the **ACC Construction Cost Index** for construction and building material costs helped hold down the rise in the **Municipal Cost Index**. The Commerce Department reported that construction spending rose to a seasonally adjusted rate of $276.1 billion for the month.

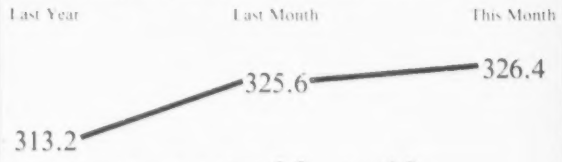
The rise in producer prices, particularly in some of the industrial categories, still has some analysts predicting an increase in the inflation rate for the first quarter of 1984. However, a decline in interest rates during the presidential election year could spur economic growth, which could stabilize prices for municipalities and consumers while holding down interest rates.

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	143.3	0	4.1
Apparel	197.3	0.1	1.1
Asphalt Roofing	381.9	−0.5	−4.5
Books	121.9	0.2	6.8
Chemicals, Industrial	348.5	2.9	−0.2
Coal	534.0	−0.3	−0.9
Concrete Products	302.3	0	1.1
Construction Machinery	352.8	0	1.8
Diesel Fuel	687.0	0.8	−13.7
Electric Lamps	313.6	0.1	9.2
Electric Power	425.9	0.2	2.7
Electric Components	185.4	0.1	5.6
Engines, I.C.	341.6	0.1	2.6
Fans and Blowers	337.0	0	0.7
Fertilizers, Mixed	258.1	−0.7	−4.5
Floor Coverings	188.1	1.6	3.9
Footwear	250.1	0.1	1.0
Foundry Products	350.6	−0.1	1.8
Fuel Oil No. 2	726.8	0.7	−13.7
Furniture, Commercial	287.2	−0.2	3.3
Gasoline	626.3	0.8	−9.7
Generator Sets	333.7	0.9	7.9
Glass	229.7	0	3.9
Glass Containers	351.3	−0.1	−1.9
Gypsum Products	289.2	4.8	13.9
Hardware	289.8	0	2.5
Heating Equipment	244.8	0.3	2.7
HVAC Controls	121.4	−0.1	6.7
LP Gas	726.2	−0.5	20.5
Lubricants	350.0	0	−0.5
Lumber	366.6	1.1	17.7
Metal Fabrications	302.8	0.2	−0.5
Millwork	307.7	3.9	9.8
Motor Vehicle Parts	351.0	−0.5	1.8
Mowers	250.1	−1.5	1.5
Natural Gas	1420.5	−0.2	3.3
Office Machines	154.7	0.1	1.5
Paint	265.7	0	0.4
Paper	281.0	−0.2	−1.5
Passenger Cars	218.4	0.4	1.6
Plumbing Fixtures	291.9	−0.1	6.3
Plywood	244.8	−3.0	6.9
Portland Cement	344.6	1.4	2.0
Pumps	345.3	−0.7	−0.7
Residual Fuel	1151.5	2.6	−7.9
Sand and Gravel	286.1	0	1.9
Sanitary Papers	360.8	0.6	1.1
Soaps, Detergents	261.5	0	2.8
Sporting Goods	206.6	0.1	−0.4
Steel Mill Products	351.4	0.4	0.8
Struc. Clay Prod.	281.7	0	6.7
Switchgear	269.7	0.8	2.2
Tires and Tubes	242.4	−6.0	−0.1
Transformers	223.4	−0.3	−0.5
Trucks	313.6	0	3.5
Valves	99.8	−0.1	N/A
Wire and Cable	204.4	0	1.4
Wiring Devices	335.9	−0.1	3.3

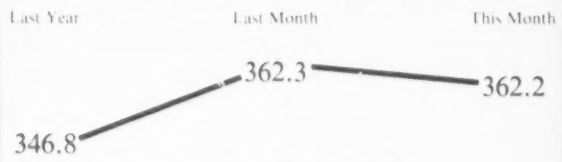
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **4.2**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

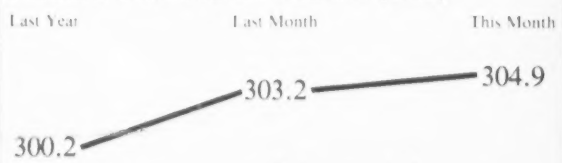


Percent Change From Last: Month **0** Year **4.4**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **2.6**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.6** Year **1.6**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	461.7B	2.4	7.8
Federal Grants	86.5B	0.8	1.6
Durable Purchases	14.2B	2.2	7.6
Consumables	31.2B	1.3	0
Services	325.4B	1.8	7.7
Structures	37.7B	−4.6	−7.6
Salaries, Wages	238.1B	1.8	7.7
Surplus	40.4B	22.8	40.1
Employment	12.855M	−0.7	−1.6

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A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc.

JANUARY 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration • engineering • operations

Privatization

Dividing the Pie Between Public and Private

Industry Outlook '84

A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration · engineering · operations

January 1984 Vol. 99, No. 1

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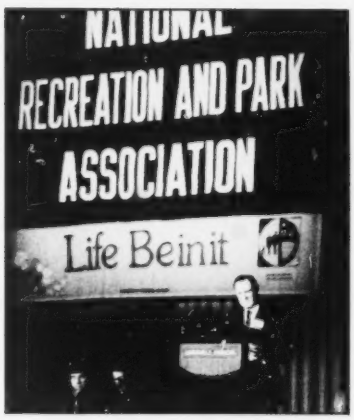

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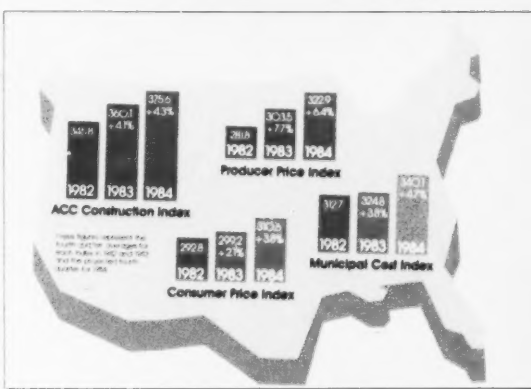

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About the Cover

As the costs of public services continue to rise, local governments are looking increasingly to the private sector for help. The subject of privatization is discussed in-depth in this issue starting on page 70.

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Expanding Economy Should Spur Growth

By Jeff Atkinson

Inflation, interest rates and the federal deficit will play a leading role in the costs of goods and services.

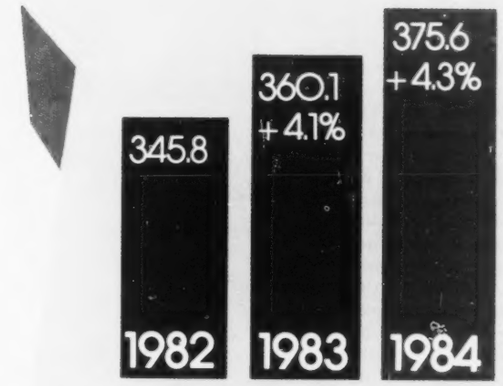
Municipalities can expect to pay 5 percent more in 1984 for the same goods and services purchased in 1983, according to estimates of leading economists, industry officials and government employees polled by AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY.

"Inflation will rise from the current 4.5 percent to 5 percent to not much lower than 7 percent by the end of next year," according to Rosanne Cahn, an economist with Goldman, Sachs & Company in New York City. Cahn says, "action on the federal deficit probably could not change the inflation increase by the end of 1984. I wouldn't expect much change (deficit) during an election year." The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates a federal deficit of $179.7 billion for fiscal 1984.

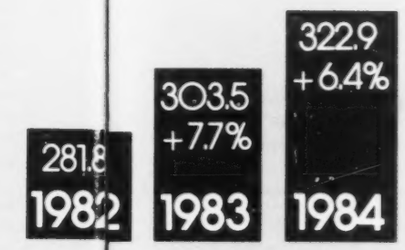
As a result of the inflation increase, AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY predicts that the Municipal Cost Index will rise 4.7 percent in 1984. The Municipal Cost Index, which is based on percentages of the ACC Construction Cost Index, Consumer Price Index and Producer Price Index, rose 3.8 percent in 1983.

The Consumer Price Index, a "market basket" of goods and services that serves as a barometer for the rise and fall of inflation, is expected to increase 3.8 percent in 1984. The Office of Management and Budget expects the CPI to increase by approximately 4.5 percent, an increase of 1.5 percent from the 1983 estimate of 3 percent.

At some point in a business expansion — especially a vigorous one — industrial pressure begins to balloon the price indexes, particularly those of sensitive commodities. This has not occurred yet. The Producer Price Index, which measures price changes at the producer level, is projected to increase 6.4 percent in 1984. Last year, the Producer Price Index increased 7.4 percent. The Producer Price Index is important because it foretells coming price changes in the wholesale and consumer markets.

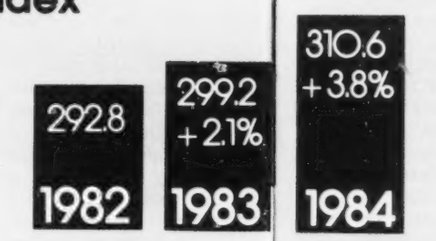


ACC Construction Index

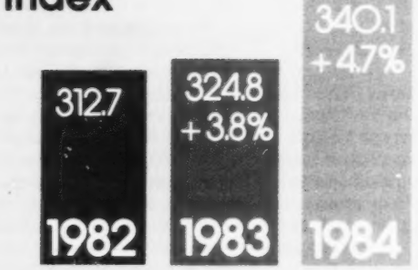


Producer Price Index

These figures represent the fourth quarter averages for each index in 1982 and 1983, and the projected fourth quarter for 1984.



Consumer Price Index



Municipal Cost Index

The ACC Construction Cost Index, which is based on construction and building costs, is expected to increase 4.3 percent in the coming year, in comparison with a 4.1 percent hike in 1983.

While construction spending has fallen in recent months, James Fralick, a vice president and economist with Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York City, predicts a "brightening" in the construction market for the state and local sectors in 1984. "Federal grants have stabilized and they will likely grow in the coming year." The nickel-a-gallon gasoline tax is the primary reason for the available federal money, according to Fralick.

Fralick says, "states and localities are moving back into surplus. This will make them more inclined to spend money on construction projects." State and local government surpluses have increased from 1982 levels as receipts increase more than expenditures. This is mainly due to increases in the "other" surplus category, surplus excluding social insurance funds, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

"Construction spending should pick up as state and local governments begin to repair and rebuild their capital stock," says Fralick.

However, not all regions are benefiting from the recovery equally. Fralick says, "Repair and rehabilitation is beginning to fare well in the Northeast. The heartland is on the way back, while the energy states are lagging behind."

Heavy financial debts and high interest rates may curb construction spending and outlays. While financial drawbacks could delay some projects, these delays should not be strong enough to cause a real decline.

Money flowing from the Surface Transportation Assistance Act is likely to boost highway and bridge construction this year. Renovation and rehabilitation work could increase if the money supply and interest rates are eased. And robust public works projects could be fueled by increased government aid.

The outlook for sewage and wastewater treatment projects will be down in the coming year, according to Pat McCoy, an economist with the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industrial Economics. "The winding down of Environmental Protection Agency programs will bring about the net decline." However, about $600 million in grants and loans for rural water and sewer programs under the Emergency Jobs Appropriations Act should help the market.

"Education and water works projects should benefit from the sale of general revenue bonds," says McCoy.

Slow growth in the construction market has its disadvantages. Yet, it is less risky than the boom-bust cycles of the past. To ensure a profitable future, firms will have to try new approaches and concepts to meet the changing market needs.

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association predicts the electrical industry will outpace the gross national product in 1984, with a 6.3 percent growth that reflects a capital goods turnaround as well as continued growth in other segments of the economy. The gross national product is the market value of all final goods and services produced by an economy in a given period.

NEMA, the nation's largest trade association for manufacturers of equipment for generation, transmission, distribution, control and end-use of electricity, predicts a 7.3 percent real growth in electronic products.

The Department of Commerce reports that orders for machinery and manufactured goods are rising. The bulk of investment is targeted for new capital equipment.

Overall, municipalities should be able to begin rehabilitation, renovation and new construction projects in 1984, if interest rates can remain stable and increased governmental aid becomes available. □

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

Due to decreases in the cost of construction and building materials, the **ACC Construction Cost Index** fell for the second straight month. The 0.2 percent decrease in the construction cost index, coupled with stable commodity prices, helped hold down the increase (0.1 percent) in the **Municipal Cost Index.**

The biggest index change was registered by the **Consumer Price Index**, which rose 0.5 percent for the month.

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

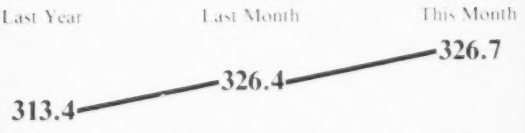
Economists are still predicting inflation to rise from the current 4.5 percent to 7 percent by the end of 1984, which means municipalities and consumers can expect to pay more for the same goods and services they purchased in 1983.

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	142.9	−0.3	3.9
Apparel	197.4	0.1	1.0
Asphalt Roofing	385.7	1.0	−6.7
Books	121.8	−0.1	6.1
Chemicals, Industrial	346.3	−0.6	−0.1
Coal	536.1	0.4	−0.4
Concrete Products	302.8	0.2	1.4
Construction Machinery	353.4	0.2	1.7
Diesel Fuel	693.7	1.0	−11.6
Electric Lamps	326.7	4.2	12.7
Electric Power	428.2	0.5	3.2
Electric Components	186.0	0.3	5.6
Engines, I.C.	340.2	−0.4	1.3
Fans and Blowers	337.1	0	0.1
Fertilizers, Mixed	255.0	−1.2	−5.2
Floor Coverings	188.2	0.1	3.7
Footwear	250.9	0.3	1.0
Foundry Products	359.7	0	1.8
Fuel Oil No. 2	737.5	1.5	−9.9
Furniture, Commercial	287.7	0.2	3.4
Gasoline	620.6	−0.9	−9.4
Generator Sets	334.0	0.1	7.3
Glass	229.7	0	3.8
Glass Containers	351.2	0	−2.1
Gypsum Products	295.7	2.2	16.5
Hardware	289.8	0	2.5
Heating Equipment	244.7	0	2.3
HVAC Controls	122.2	0.7	4.4
LP Gas	718.0	−1.1	11.0
Lubricants	351.3	0.4	−0.2
Lumber	348.2	−5.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	303.8	0.3	−0.8
Millwork	305.7	−0.6	9.4
Motor Vehicle Parts	350.6	−0.1	−0.2
Mowers	253.3	1.3	2.4
Natural Gas	1427.1	0.5	1.2
Office Machines	154.7	0	1.4
Paint	264.5	−0.5	−0.1
Paper	285.3	1.5	0
Passenger Cars	288.0	−4.8	4.1
Plumbing Fixtures	291.5	−0.1	5.2
Plywood	242.4	−1.9	6.1
Portland Cement	348.3	1.1	3.3
Pumps	345.8	0.1	−0.7
Residual Fuel	1174.9	2.0	4.8
Sand and Gravel	286.2	0	2.0
Sanitary Papers	359.2	−0.4	0.4
Soaps, Detergents	265.0	1.3	4.2
Sporting Goods	207.1	0.2	−0.3
Steel Mill Products	357.7	1.8	2.7
Struc. Clay Prod.	281.7	0	6.7
Switchgear	269.9	0.1	2.3
Tires and Tubes	242.5	0	−5.1
Transformers	224.6	0.5	2.1
Trucks	301.2	−4.0	4.1
Valves	99.5	−0.3	N/A
Wire and Cable	283.8	−0.3	2.0
Wiring Devices	336.6	0.2	3.1

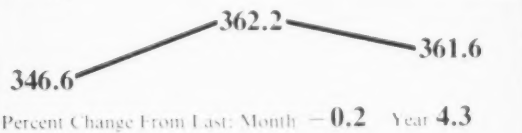
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



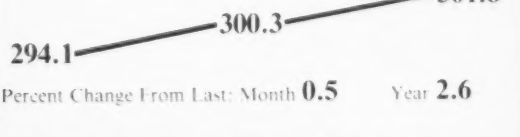
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **4.2**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



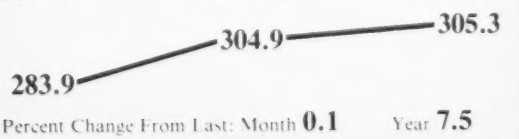
Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.2** Year **4.3**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.5** Year **2.6**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **7.5**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	478.5B	3.6	9.5
Federal Grants	86.8B	1.2	2.0
Durable Purchases	14.2B	2.2	7.6
Consumables	31.2B	1.3	0
Services	325.4B	1.8	7.7
Structures	37.7B	−4.6	−7.6
Salaries, Wages	238.1B	1.8	7.7
Surplus	51.8B	28.2	61.9
Employment	13.085M	0.9	1.2

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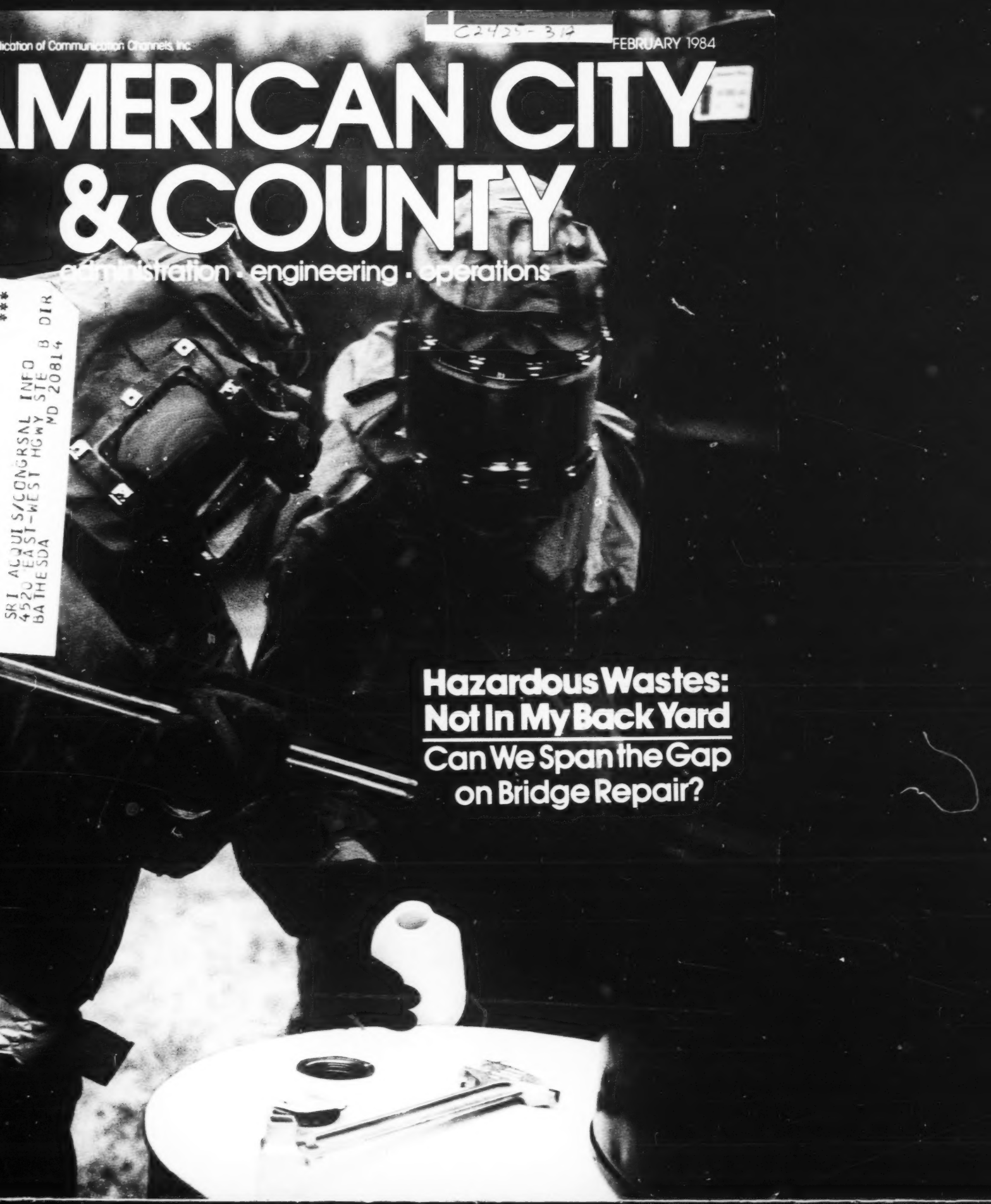

Hazardous Wastes: Not In My Back Yard

Can We Span the Gap on Bridge Repair?

A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration · engineering · operations

February 1984 Vol. 99, No. 2

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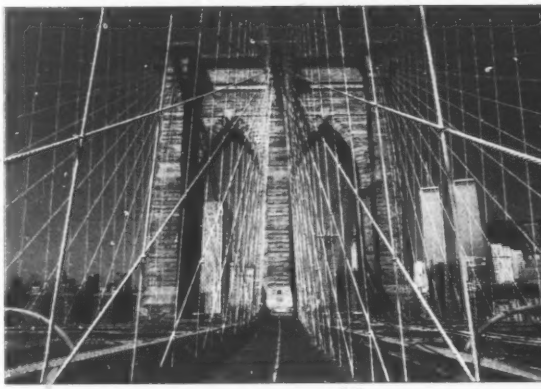

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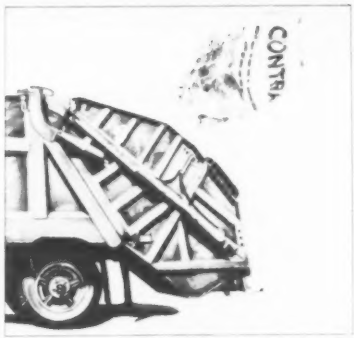
About the Cover
These "alien-garbed beings" are skillfully handling hazardous waste—a monumental problem facing the United States. Our thanks to the NUS Corporation for providing both the cover photo and accompanying article.



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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

For the third straight month, the **ACC Construction Cost Index** fell, but despite the minor drop heavy financial debts and high interest rates may curb construction spending and outlays during the year. While these drawbacks could delay some projects, the delays should not be strong enough to cause a real decline in the construction industry.

The **Municipal Cost Index** increased 0.2 percent for the month due to gains in the **Consumer Price Index** and **Producer Price Index**. Both the **Consumer Price Index** and the **Producer Price Index** rose 0.3 percent for the month. Passenger cars (6.9 percent) and trucks (8.3 percent) showed the largest gains in this month's marketbasket.

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	142.9	0.0	2.2
Apparel	197.3	−0.1	0.8
Asphalt Roofing	385.0	−0.2	−5.3
Books	122.5	0.6	6.1
Chemicals, Industrial	348.6	0.7	0.8
Coal	536.7	0.1	−0.3
Concrete Products	303.3	0.2	1.6
Construction Machinery	353.5	0.0	1.7
Diesel Fuel	711.9	2.6	−9.2
Electric Lamps	326.9	0.1	10.1
Electric Power	423.9	−1.0	3.7
Electric Components	187.0	0.5	5.9
Engines, I.C.	340.9	0.2	1.3
Fans and Blowers	335.8	−0.4	−0.2
Fertilizers, Mixed	253.5	−0.6	−5.2
Floor Coverings	188.1	−0.1	3.6
Footwear	251.2	0.1	0.9
Foundry Products	352.5	0.5	1.7
Fuel Oil No. 2	749.3	1.6	−8.5
Furniture, Commercial	287.9	0.1	3.4
Gasoline	612.7	−1.3	−8.9
Generator Sets	334.1	0.0	6.9
Glass	229.5	0.0	3.8
Glass Containers	351.1	0.0	−2.1
Gypsum Products	304.3	2.9	19.3
Hardware	290.0	0.1	2.5
Heating Equipment	245.0	0.1	2.8
HVAC Controls	122.3	0.1	2.2
LP Gas	734.6	2.3	2.6
Lubricants	348.8	−0.7	−0.8
Lumber	345.8	−0.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	304.4	0.2	−0.5
Millwork	307.1	0.5	10.2
Motor Vehicle Parts	350.8	0.1	−0.7
Mowers	253.6	0.1	2.5
Natural Gas	1387.2	−2.8	−0.7
Office Machines	155.2	0.3	1.9
Paint	264.1	−0.2	−0.2
Paper	286.6	0.5	0.4
Passenger Cars	222.4	6.9	1.7
Plumbing Fixtures	292.7	0.4	5.4
Plywood	246.5	1.7	10.0
Portland Cement	348.0	−0.1	4.0
Pumps	345.1	−0.2	−0.9
Residual Fuel	1193.1	1.5	5.7
Sand and Gravel	286.2	0.0	1.9
Sanitary Papers	359.7	0.1	0.6
Soaps, Detergents	265.3	0.1	4.3
Sporting Goods	206.5	−0.2	0.2
Steel Mill Products	358.1	0.1	2.4
Struc. Clay Prod.	282.8	0.4	7.1
Switchgear	270.4	0.2	2.2
Tires and Tubes	242.7	0.1	−5.1
Transformers	224.2	−0.2	1.6
Trucks	326.2	8.3	2.7
Valves	100.1	0.6	N/A
Wire and Cable	202.6	−0.6	2.7
Wiring Devices	338.3	0.5	3.3

At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 313.4 — Last Month 326.7 — This Month 327.2

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 4.4

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 346.6 — Last Month 361.6 — This Month 361.5

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.0 Year 4.3

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 294.1 — Last Month 301.8 — This Month 302.6

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.3 Year 2.9

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 283.9 — Last Month 305.3 — This Month 306.3

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.3 Year 7.9

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	478.5B	3.6	9.5
Federal Grants	86.8B	1.2	2.0
Durable Purchases	14.2B	2.2	7.6
Consumables	31.2B	1.3	0.0
Services	325.4B	1.8	7.7
Structures	37.7B	−4.6	−7.6
Salaries, Wages	238.1B	1.8	7.7
Surplus	51.8B	28.2	61.9
Employment	13.085M	0.9	1.2

C2425-3a

A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc.

MARCH 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration • engineering • operations

Local Government Financing: The Shirttails or...?

...on Sewage Funding

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March 1984 Vol. 99, No. 3

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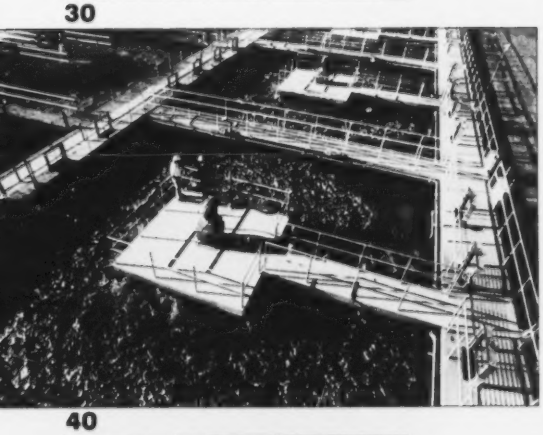

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Impact of stagnant funding level could mean less money for local projects.

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About the Cover

As the federal government reduces its local government financing role, city and county officials are looking to private sector funding alternatives. (Artwork by Thom Baccus)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

Backed by declines in the **ACC Construction Cost Index** and the **Producer Price Index**, the **Municipal Cost Index** dropped 0.2 percent for the month. The construction cost index, which declined for the fourth straight month, fell 0.5 percent, while producer prices dropped 0.2 percent.

The only index to increase was the **Consumer Price Index**, which rose 0.2 percent. Trucks and lp gas led commodity price declines in this month's marketbasket, while gypsum products and mixed fertilizers showed the largest price increases.

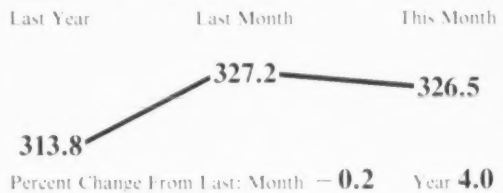
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	142.5	−0.3	1.6
Apparel	198.7	0.7	1.7
Asphalt Roofing	384.2	−0.2	−3.7
Books	122.7	0.2	5.2
Chemicals, Industrial	346.3	−0.7	0.3
Coal	539.8	0.6	0
Concrete Products	303.6	0.1	1.8
Construction Machinery	353.7	0.1	1.7
Diesel Fuel	706.7	−0.7	−12.5
Electric Lamps	327.3	0.1	10.3
Electric Power	419.0	−1.2	3.5
Electric Components	187.0	0	4.8
Engines, I.C.	342.6	0.5	1.8
Fans and Blowers	335.8	0	−0.2
Fertilizers, Mixed	258.2	1.9	−2.3
Floor Coverings	187.9	−0.1	3.6
Flow Instruments	100.6	0	N/A
Footwear	251.4	0.1	0.9
Foundry Products	352.8	0.1	1.9
Fuel Oil No. 2	738.9	−1.4	−14.1
Furniture, Commercial	290.3	0.8	4.2
Gasoline	599.7	−2.1	−9.6
Generator Sets	335.8	0.5	6.9
Glass	230.1	0.3	2.1
Glass Containers	351.1	0	−1.9
Gypsum Products	313.9	3.2	23.1
Hardware	291.5	0.5	3.0
Heating Equipment	245.2	0.1	2.7
HVAC Controls	121.9	−0.3	3.0
LP Gas	707.8	−3.6	−6.5
Lubricants	365.2	4.7	4.0
Lumber	346.0	0	N/A
Metal Fabrications	305.0	0.2	−0.1
Millwork	308.2	0.4	10.0
Motor Vehicle Parts	350.9	0	−0.6
Mowers	253.7	0	3.4
Natural Gas	1392.7	0.4	−5.2
Office Machines	154.8	−0.3	1.4
Paint	264.4	0.1	−0.1
Paper	287.9	0.5	2.6
Passenger Cars	222.0	−0.2	1.5
Plumbing Fixtures	293.7	0.3	5.5
Plywood	244.7	−0.7	7.4
Portland Cement	341.2	−2.0	2.0
Pumps	345.4	0.1	−0.8
Residual Fuel	1200.7	0.6	5.4
Sand and Gravel	287.6	0.5	2.3
Sanitary Papers	359.7	0	−1.1
Soaps, Detergents	266.7	0.5	3.8
Sporting Goods	207.6	0.5	0.8
Steel Mill Products	359.1	0.3	3.0
Struc. Clay Prod.	283.4	0.2	7.0
Switchgear	269.4	−0.4	1.9
Tires and Tubes	242.7	0	−4.6
Transformers	222.9	−0.6	1.0
Trucks	317.7	−2.6	0.1
Valves	100.1	0	N/A
Wire and Cable	202.9	0.1	2.9
Wiring Devices	338.8	0.1	3.5

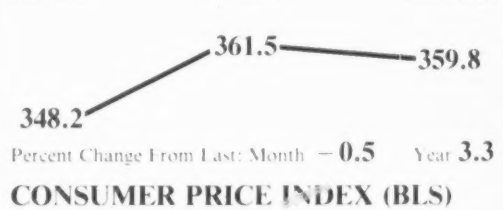
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



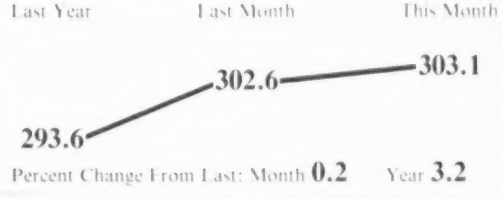
Percent Change From Last: Month −0.2 Year 4.0

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



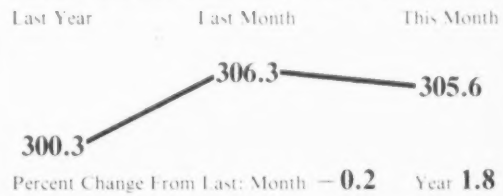
Percent Change From Last: Month −0.5 Year 3.3

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 3.2

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month −0.2 Year 1.8

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	478.5B	3.6	9.5
Federal Grants	86.8B	1.2	2.0
Durable Purchases	14.2B	2.2	7.6
Consumables	31.2B	1.3	0.0
Services	325.4B	1.8	7.7
Structures	37.7B	−4.6	−7.6
Salaries, Wages	238.1B	1.8	7.7
Surplus	51.8B	28.2	61.9
Employment	13.085M	0.9	1.2

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APRIL 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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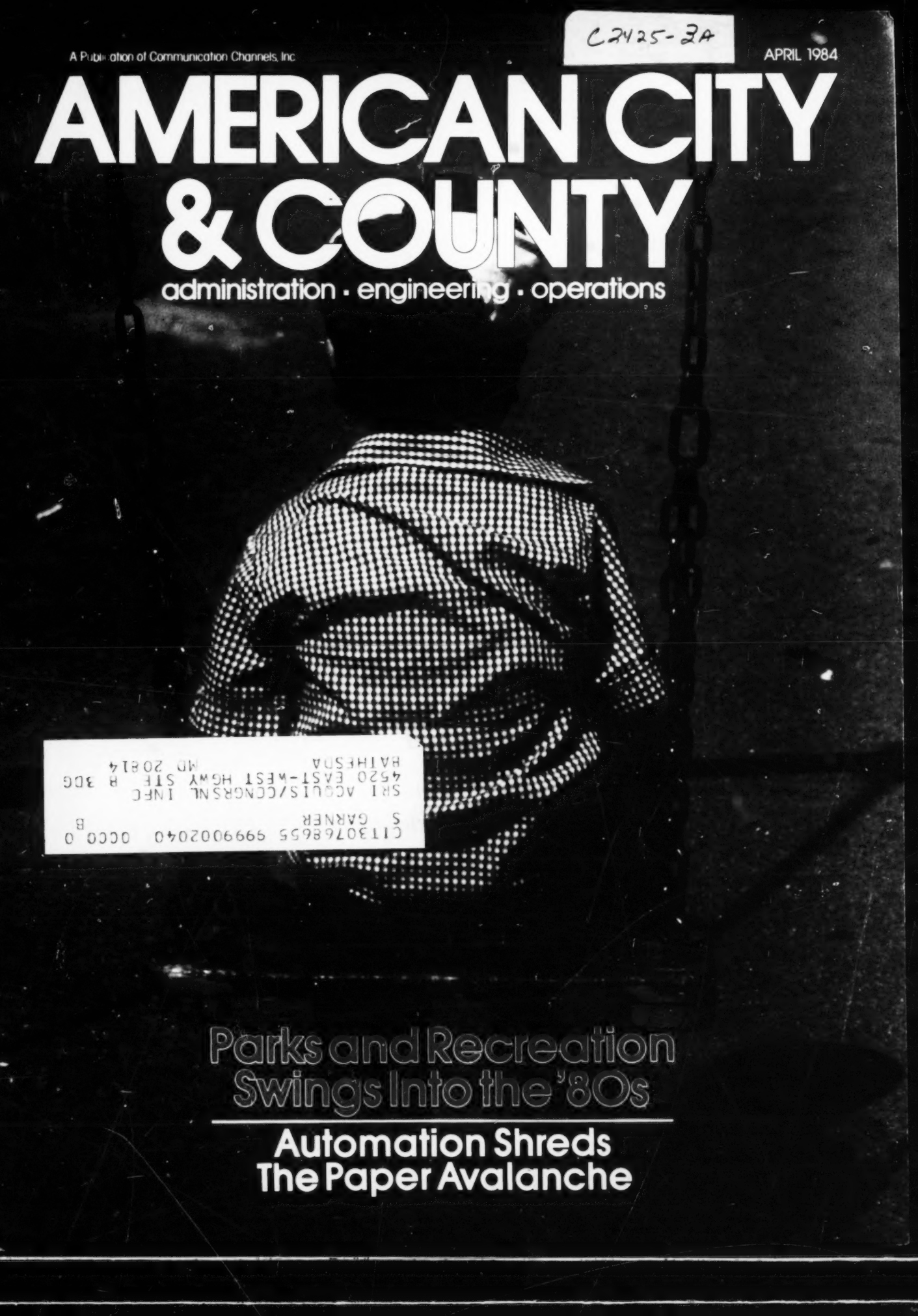

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Parks and Recreation Swings Into the '80s

Automation Shreds The Paper Avalanche

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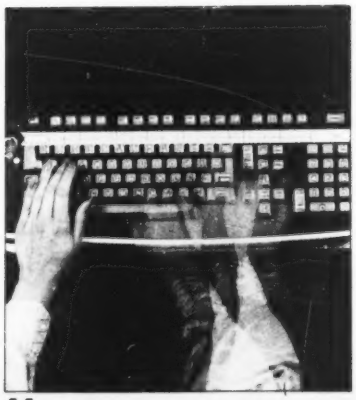
April 1984 Vol. 99, No. 4



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Americans are accelerating their pace toward better health.

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Fitness is brought to citizens of New Rochelle, N.Y., via their city fit van.

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Citizen volunteers in Lincoln, Neb., help provide parks maintenance and reduce costs.

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A citizen group in Pennsylvania found a solution to a nasty problem.

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The rapid growth of office automation technology helps cities solve problems.

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About the Cover

Physical fitness is not only for the young. All ages are finding a kind of "fountain of youth," with increased fitness to achieve better overall health. (Photograph by Jeff Licata.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** increased only 0.1 percent for the month to 326.7 as the other cost indexes remained virtually unchanged. The **Consumer Price Index** and the **Producer Price Index** both rose 0.1 percent, while the **ACC Construction Cost Index** remained stable at 359.7.

The minor cost index increases come at a time when the Reagan administration is urging the Federal Reserve Board to increase the money supply to keep economic growth on track, while curbing worries about inflation. Meanwhile, economists are still predicting that the first half of 1984 will bring increased corporate profits and lower interest rates, which should strengthen the nation's economy. Lower interest rates should help keep municipal budgets in the black.

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last year
Air Conditioners	142.8	0.2	1.6
Apparel	198.4	−0.2	2.8
Asphalt Roofing	380.6	−0.9	−4.1
Books	123.2	0.4	5.1
Chemicals, Industrial	345.1	−0.3	0.8
Coal	542.4	0.5	0.7
Concrete Products	303.7	0	1.7
Construction Machinery	353.7	0	1.6
Diesel Fuel	701.1	−0.8	−14.9
Electric Components	188.2	0.6	5.4
Electric Lamps	331.4	1.3	11.4
Electric Power	417.6	−0.3	1.9
Engines, I.C.	342.7	0	1.8
Fans and Blowers	335.8	0	−0.3
Fertilizers, Mixed	258.9	0.3	−1.8
Floor Coverings	187.8	−0.1	3.5
Flow Instruments	100.6	0	N/A
Footwear	251.3	0	1.5
Foundry Products	353.1	0.1	2.0
Fuel Oil No. 2	729.4	−1.3	−15.8
Furniture, Commercial	290.5	0.1	4.3
Gasoline	587.6	−2.0	−10.0
Generator Sets	336.0	0.1	5.9
Glass	230.0	0	2.1
Glass Containers	351.0	0	−1.8
Gypsum Products	321.9	2.4	26.6
Hardware	291.9	0.1	2.1
Heating Equipment	245.6	0.2	2.6
HVAC Controls	120.5	−1.1	−1.6
LP Gas	694.7	−1.9	−6.1
Lubricants	366.3	0.3	3.7
Lumber	351.5	1.6	N/A
Metal Fabrications	304.9	0	0.1
Millwork	308.5	0.1	7.7
Motor Vehicle Parts	351.3	0.1	−0.5
Mowers	254.0	0.1	3.5
Natural Gas	1402.7	0.7	−4.3
Office Machines	154.9	0.1	1.2
Paint	264.9	0.2	0.1
Paper	288.9	0.3	3.5
Passenger Cars	222.0	0	1.3
Plumbing Fixtures	293.6	0	5.2
Plywood	247.1	1.0	6.9
Portland Cement	340.5	−0.2	4.4
Pumps	346.3	0.3	−0.6
Residual Fuel	1200.7	−1.3	3.6
Sand and Gravel	288.7	0.4	2.7
Sanitary Papers	359.7	0	−0.6
Soaps, Detergents	267.2	0.2	4.0
Sporting Goods	206.8	−0.4	0.2
Steel Mill Products	359.5	0.1	4.3
Struc. Clay Prod.	283.5	0	7.1
Switchgear	269.3	0	1.5
Tires and Tubes	243.0	0.1	−5.1
Transformers	223.9	0.4	1.6
Trucks	317.7	0	0.1
Valves	100.1	0	0.1
Wire and Cable	201.5	−0.7	2.1
Wiring Devices	341.9	0.9	3.9

At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 314.9 — Last Month 326.5 — This Month 326.7

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **3.7**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 354.6 — Last Month 359.8 — This Month 359.7

Percent Change From Last: Month **0** Year **1.4**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 292.4 — Last Month 303.1 — This Month 303.5

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **3.8**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 300.7 — Last Month 305.6 — This Month 306.0

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **1.8**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	492.7B	2.9	11.3
Federal Grants	87.2B	0.6	5.1
Durable Purchases	14.5B	2.1	8.2
Consumables	32.5B	3.5	3.5
Services	331.4B	1.9	7.7
Structures	41.8B	8.6	0.9
Salaries, Wages	242.6B	1.9	7.8
Surplus	55.5B	7.4	77.3
Employment	13.019M	0.4	−0.1

C2425-3A

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MAY 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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Telecommunications Wired for the Future

Is There Gold in Garbage?

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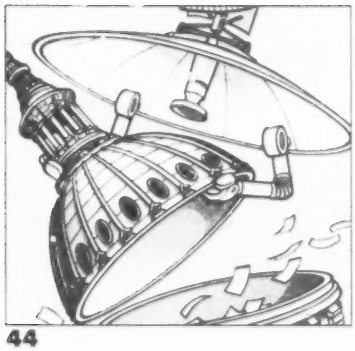

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About the Cover
The wire on these rolls is becoming obsolete as the technology of the telecommunications industry leap-frogs to satellites, microwave transmission and fiber optics. Story on page 38.

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.3 percent for the month to 328.9. The rise in the index was sparked by a 0.4 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**, along with 0.2 percent increases in both the **Producer Price Index** and the **ACC Construction Cost Index**.

New construction starts in the highway, bridge and non-building markets should begin to improve with the release of federal construction funds. Also, economic growth should be spurred by the recent drop in interest rates — yielding lower costs for local governments.

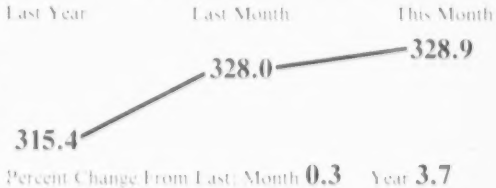
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	143.6	0	1.2
Apparel	199.8	0.6	2.5
Asphalt Roofing	390.4	2.4	2.6
Books	125.2	0.9	5.3
Chemicals, Industrial	338.0	−2.8	−0.6
Coal	543.4	0.4	1.9
Concrete Products	306.4	0.3	2.1
Construction Machinery	355.9	0.5	1.9
Diesel Fuel	709.5	2.9	−4.9
Electric Components	190.1	0.7	5.6
Electric Lamps	332.3	−1.5	8.8
Electric Power	424.4	0.8	3.3
Engines, I.C.	344.3	0	2.2
Fans, Blowers	341.2	1.1	1.2
Fertilizers, Mixed	269.0	2.5	3.3
Floor Coverings	187.7	−0.7	3.1
Flow Instruments	100.6	0	N/A
Footwear	251.6	0	1.6
Foundry Products	357.1	0.8	2.9
Fuel Oil No. 2	767.5	8.2	2.6
Furniture, Commercial	293.9	1.1	4.1
Gasoline	563.9	−1.1	−6.4
Generator Sets	337.7	0.1	4.5
Glass	230.0	−0.2	0.1
Glass Containers	350.9	0	−1.4
Gypsum Products	339.4	3.3	26.9
Hardware	292.9	0.1	1.7
Heating Equipment	248.4	0.4	3.2
HVAC Controls	121.5	0.2	−2.3
LP Gas	671.5	−0.9	−5.2
Lubricants	368.0	−0.8	4.0
Lumber	365.4	3.9	N/A
Metal Fabrications	306.9	−0.1	1.4
Millwork	308.5	0	2.7
Motor Vehicle Parts	352.8	−0.1	0.1
Mowers	256.8	0.7	3.5
Natural Gas	1413.6	−0.1	−1.9
Office Machines	154.3	−1.0	0.3
Paint	266.9	0.5	0.8
Paper	296.6	0.8	6.4
Passenger Cars	221.9	0	2.5
Plumbing Fixtures	296.9	1.0	4.7
Plywood	249.5	0.5	4.2
Portland Cement	347.0	5.3	4.4
Pumps	346.3	0.1	−1.0
Residual Fuel	1093.1	−6.2	5.7
Sand, Gravel	291.7	0.7	3.4
Sanitary Papers	360.3	0.2	−1.3
Soaps, Detergents	267.8	0.8	3.5
Sporting Goods	206.7	0	0.5
Steel Mill Products	363.5	0.2	3.5
Struc. Clay Products	283.0	−0.2	7.1
Switchgear	272.4	1.3	−0.2
Tires, Tubes	243.0	0	−3.0
Transformers	219.9	−1.6	−1.6
Trucks	326.9	0.7	3.0
Valves	100.4	0.2	−0.4
Wire, Cable	201.8	0	−1.7
Wiring Devices	346.3	1.0	4.9

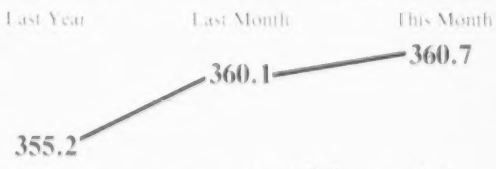
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



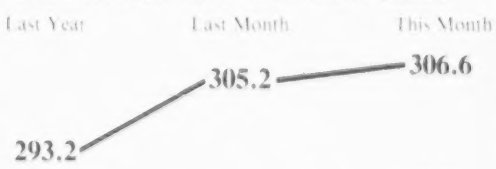
Percent Change From Last: Month 0.3 Year 3.7

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



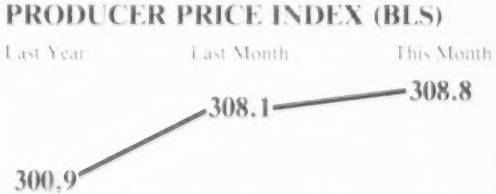
Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 1.6

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.4 Year 4.6

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 2.6

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	492.7B	2.9	11.3
Federal Grants	86.5B	−0.8	1.8
Durable Purchases	14.7B	1.3	7.3
Consumables	33.3B	2.5	5.4
Services	337.5B	1.8	7.6
Structures	40.5B	−3.1	−2.4
Salaries, Wages	246.9B	1.8	7.6
Surplus	55.5B	7.4	77.3
Employment	13.019M	0.4	−0.1

A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc

JUNE 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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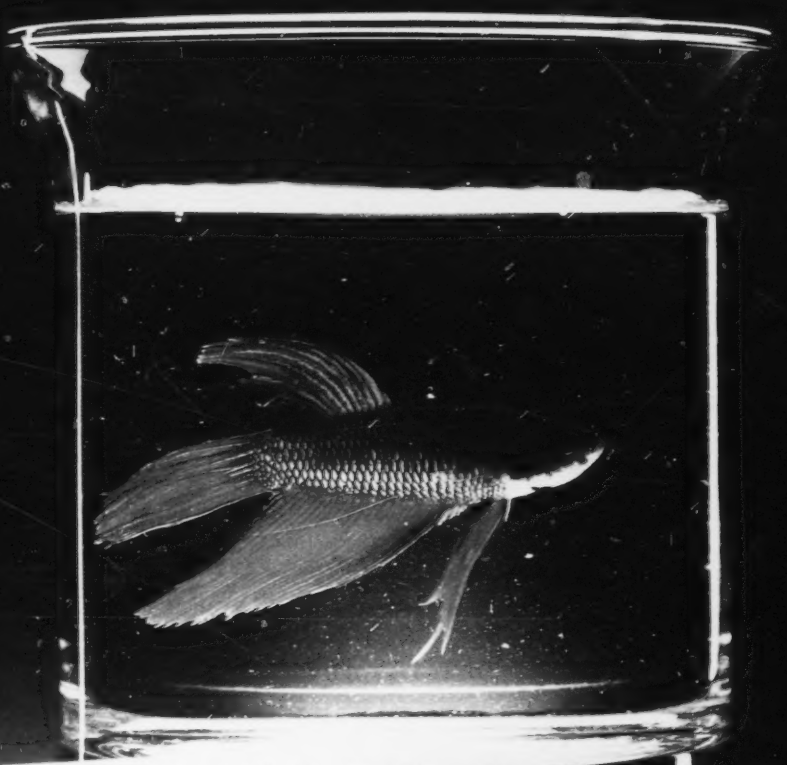
Is Our Drinking Water Safe?



Tax-exempt Bonds–A Vital Financing Tool

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About the Cover

Ground water contamination will be a major topic of discussion in Dallas when the American Water Works Association holds its annual convention and exposition June 10-14. The topic, of vital interest to public officials, is discussed in "Is Our Drinking Water Safe?" beginning on page 26. (Photograph by Jeff Licata.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.2 percent for the month to 329.7, due mainly to a 0.7 percent increase in the **Producer Price Index** for all commodities. Commodities with the highest increases in the *American City & County* listing included: diesel fuel, electric lamps, fuel oil no. 2, plumbing fixtures, portland cement, residual fuel and transformers.

The **Consumer Price Index** rose 0.2 percent for the month, while the **ACC Construction Cost Index** remained steady at 360.7. However, F.W. Dodge reports that new construction contracts fell an adjusted 4 percent, reflecting declines in public works construction and home building. Another sign that slower economic growth lies ahead was a 1.1 percent drop in the U.S. Department of Commerce's leading indicators of future economic growth. □

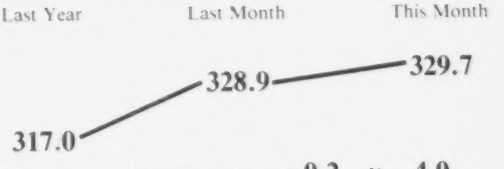
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	143.5	−0.1	1.3
Apparel	200.7	0.5	2.3
Asphalt Roofing	383.7	−1.7	2.4
Books	125.3	0.1	5.4
Chemicals, Industrial	346.0	2.4	2.1
Coal	546.0	0.5	1.4
Concrete Products	306.3	0	2.0
Construction Machinery	355.8	0	1.8
Diesel Fuel	734.1	3.5	4.7
Electric Components	190.7	0.3	5.8
Electric Lamps	341.5	2.8	12.0
Electric Power	427.1	0.6	3.8
Engines, I.C.	343.0	−0.4	0.8
Fans, Blowers	341.6	0.1	1.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	270.6	0.6	4.3
Floor Coverings	187.5	−0.1	3.0
Flow Instruments	100.2	−0.4	N/A
Footwear	253.3	0.7	2.1
Foundry Products	356.9	−0.1	1.6
Fuel Oil No. 2	788.2	2.7	11.6
Furniture, Commercial	296.4	0.9	4.0
Gasoline	568.7	0.9	−2.3
Generator Sets	337.9	0.1	4.6
Glass	229.7	−0.1	0
Glass Containers	351.7	0.2	−0.7
Gypsum Products	339.5	0	27.7
Hardware	293.2	0.1	1.7
Heating Equipment	248.8	0.2	3.2
HVAC Controls	121.8	0.2	−1.9
LP Gas	651.9	−2.9	−7.5
Lubricants	369.0	0.3	4.4
Lumber	369.2	1.0	N/A
Metal Fabrications	308.5	0.5	1.6
Millwork	309.7	0.4	1.9
Motor Vehicle Parts	352.5	−0.1	0.2
Mowers	256.0	−0.3	2.4
Natural Gas	1381.1	−2.3	−7.0
Office Machines	154.7	0.3	0.5
Paint	267.6	0.3	1.1
Paper	299.2	0.9	7.5
Passenger Cars	222.0	0	2.9
Plumbing Fixtures	299.9	1.0	5.0
Plywood	248.7	−0.3	4.1
Portland Cement	356.5	2.7	8.0
Pumps	347.5	0.3	−0.2
Residual Fuel	1161.1	2.1	13.0
Sand, Gravel	293.1	0.5	4.3
Sanitary Papers	361.0	0.2	−1.2
Soaps, Detergents	265.4	−0.9	2.4
Sporting Goods	206.7	0	1.1
Steel Mill Products	363.6	0	3.9
Struc. Clay Products	283.6	0.2	4.8
Switchgear	222.4	−0.1	−0.8
Tires, Tubes	242.3	−0.3	−1.7
Transformers	226.0	2.8	0.8
Trucks	326.4	−0.2	2.8
Valves	101.1	0.7	1.1
Wire, Cable	201.8	0	−1.7
Wiring Devices	348.4	0.6	4.7

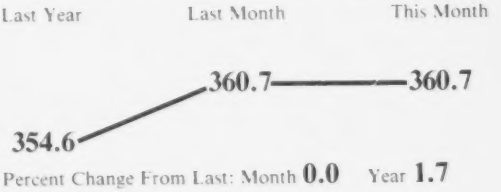
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



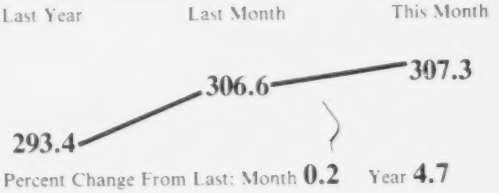
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **4.0**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



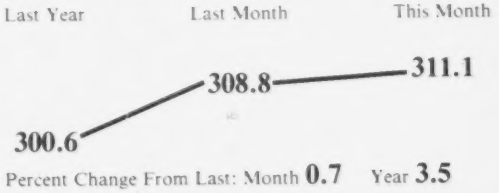
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **1.7**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **4.7**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.7** Year **3.5**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	492.7B	2.9	11.3
Federal Grants	86.4B	−0.9	1.6
Durable Purchases	14.7B	1.3	7.3
Consumables	33.3B	2.5	5.4
Services	337.5B	1.8	7.6
Structures	40.5B	−3.1	−2.4
Salaries, Wages	247.2B	1.9	7.7
Surplus	55.5B	7.4	77.3
Employment	12.947M	−0.5	−0.4

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JULY 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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Counties – 350 Years of Service to People

AC&C's Salary and Benefits Survey

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AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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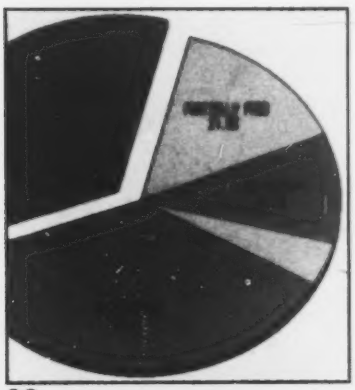
BPA

July 1984

Vol. 99, No.7



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About the Cover

County government in America will celebrate its 350th anniversary when the National Association of Counties convenes its annual conference and exposition July 7-11 in Seattle, Washington. The topic, maintaining a commitment to service, begins on page 64.

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ISSN 0149-337X

AC&C's 1984 Salary And Benefits Survey

Higher salaries prevail in the West, according to a poll of 560 local government officials in all regions of the United States.

By Ken Anderberg, Editor

Local government employees interested in earning higher salaries may want to turn their attention toward the setting sun. According to *American City and County's* recently conducted Salary and and Benefits Survey, pay scales for city and county supervisory personnel are higher in western states than in any other region of the country.

For example, while the survey shows that two out of three mayors or city or county managers or administrators earn more than $35,000 a year, that figure rises to nearly eight out of 10 in western states. Financial directors, public works directors, engineers and attorneys also are generally paid more in the West, according to the survey.

While slightly less than half of the financial directors represented in the survey earn in excess of $30,000 annually, about 60 percent of those officials located in western states exceed that salary. Two thirds of public works directors in the West fall into the $30,000-plus salary range, while the national average is 53 percent.

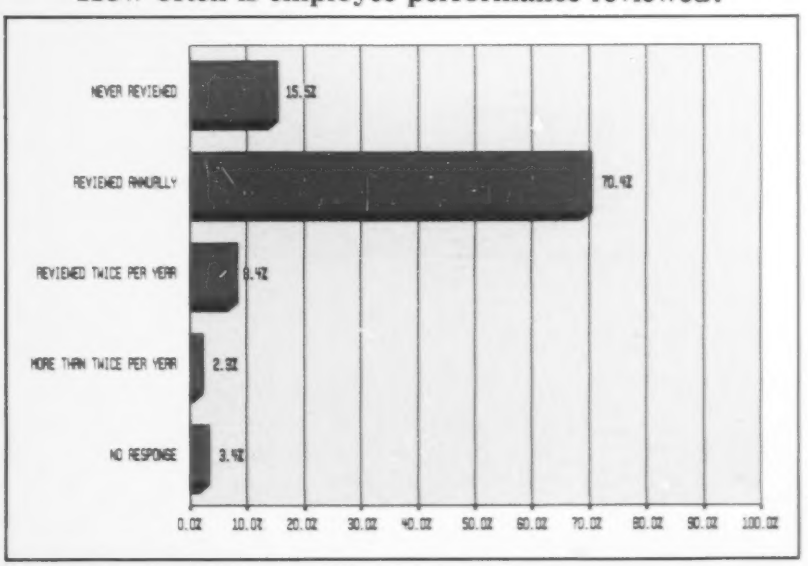
More western engineers and attorneys earn salaries of $30,000-plus, higher than their counterparts in other parts of the country. Western attorneys, in particular, are well above the national average, with nearly half reported earning more than $30,000 per year.

American City and County's Salary and Benefits Survey was mailed to 2,100 financial directors and city and county clerks this past spring. A total of 560 questionnaires were returned, or 27 percent of the total sample. All regions of the country are represented, as are communities in 46 states.

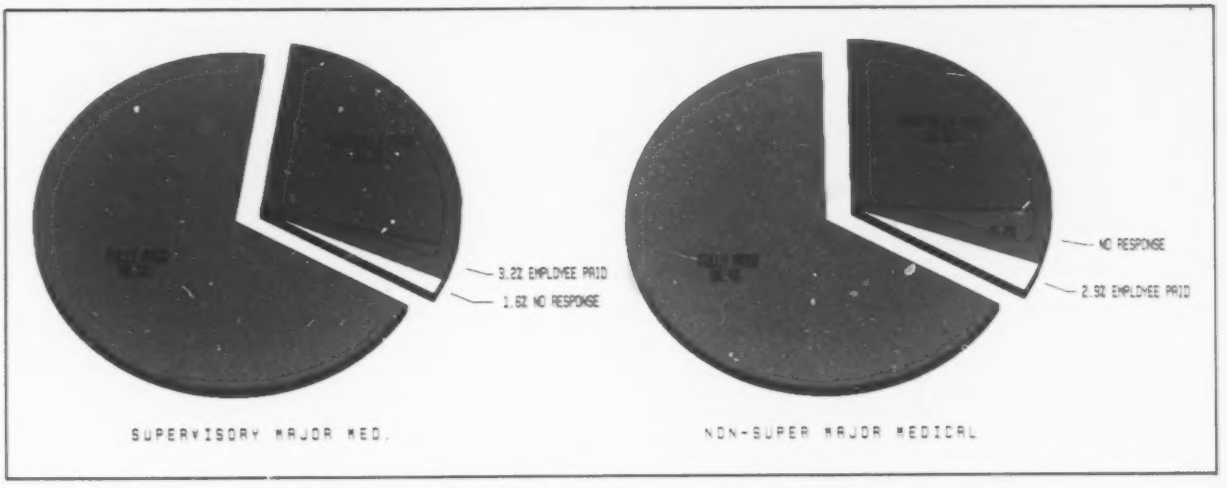
The Midwest led in total responses with 137, followed by the Southeast with 105, the West with 99, the Southwest with 70, the Northeast with 69, the Mid-Atlantic with 45, and the North Central states with 35.

Local governments responding to the survey include small cities and counties with populations of less than 10,000 (77 responses) to those with populations

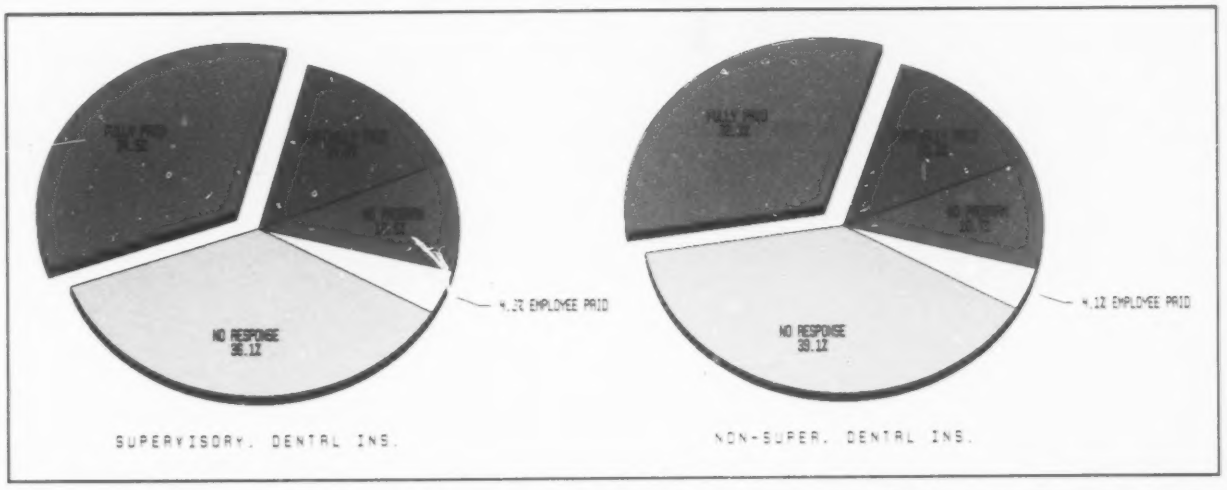
How often is employee performance reviewed?



Does your municipality/county provide major medical insurance?



Does your municipality/county provide dental insurance?



greater than 250,000 (37). More than half (311) of the responding local governments were in the 10,000-50,000 population range, 92 have populations of 50,000-100,000, and 43 are in the 100,000-250,000 population category. Included in the survey are cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Indianapolis, St. Paul, Houston, Kansas City, Phoenix and San Francisco.

The survey polled salary levels of key public officials, as well as other benefits available to public employees, both supervisory and non-supervisory.

Benefits are close

Nationally, benefit levels were remarkably close for supervisory and non-supervisory personnel. Approximately two-thirds of all governments responding said they provided fully paid major medical insurance for all employees, although the total for supervisory levels was slightly higher by 3 percent. In addition, another one-fourth of the respondents said they provided major medical that was partially paid by the local government, with the rest paid by the employees. That means that 95 percent of all public employees included in the survey have major medical coverage, which is at least partially paid by their employers. The remaining 5 percent said employees paid the full amount for major medical.

Other benefits polled in the survey included dental insurance, life insurance, pension and retirement plans, and vacation and sick leave. While the differences between supervisory and non-supervisory employees in these categories was minimal, the survey did indicate that location and population of a community could have an effect on the availability of benefits.

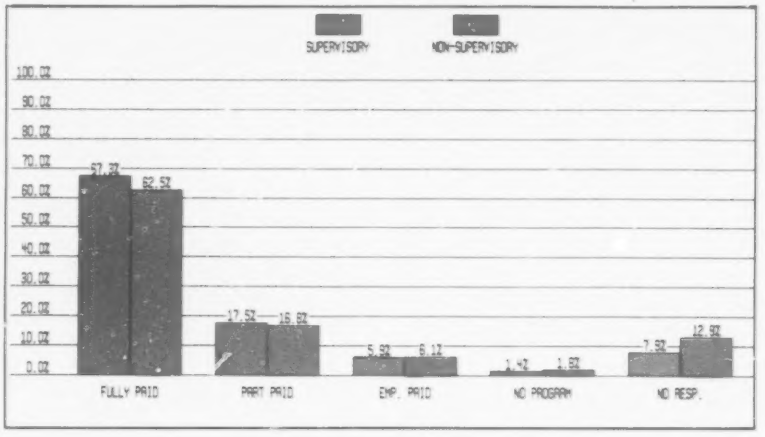
For instance, far more public employees in the West have dental insurance than in any other region, with 81 percent receiving either fully or partially paid coverage. The Northeast is second best with 55 percent, while the national average is 49 percent.

On the other hand, according to the survey, 94 percent of public employees in the Southwest have fully or partially paid life insurance, compared to the national average of 85 percent. The West has the lowest percentage of partially or fully employer-paid pension plan coverage (28 percent), compared to the 59 percent coverage in the Midwest and the national total of 45 percent. Retirement plans are most popular in the Southwest and West with about 84 percent of public employees receiving full or partial payment from local governments in those regions. The national average is 68 percent.

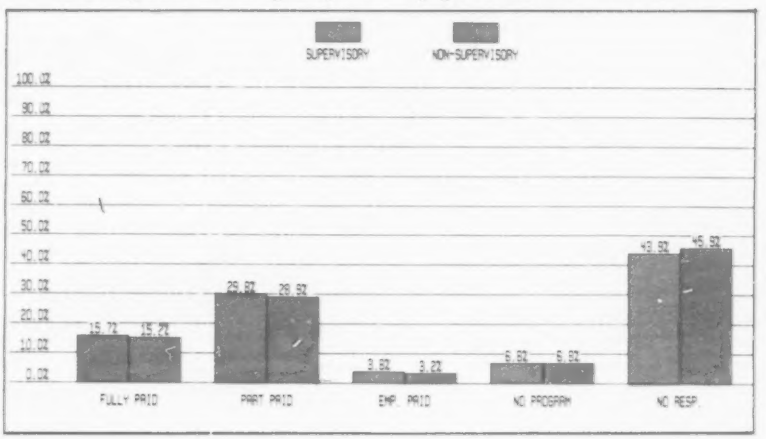
Vacation and sick leave

Nationally, 13 percent of public employees represented in the survey receive one to four vacation days after six months of employment, 31 percent earn five days, and 10 percent get 10 days. After one year on the job, 73 percent receive 10 days of vacation; after three years, 64 percent get 10 days and 13 percent earn 15 days. After five years, most (43 percent) have 15 days of vacation, although one-third still get just 10 days. Two-thirds of the respondents

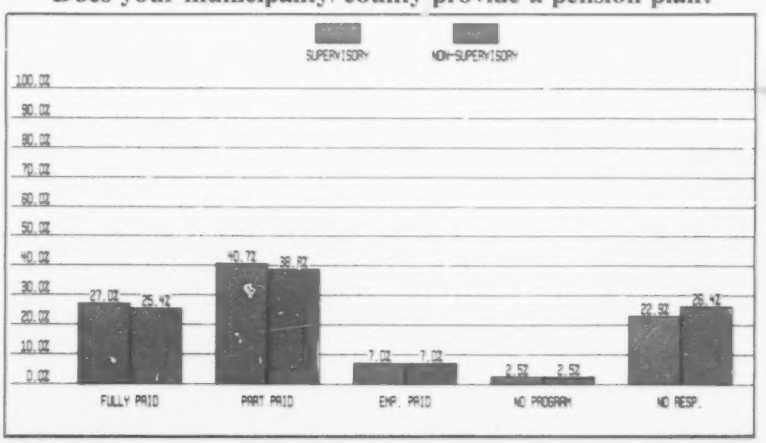
Does your municipality/county provide a retirement plan?



Does your municipality/county provide life insurance?



Does your municipality/county provide a pension plan?



said vacation time could be carried over from year to year.

Vacation time was not as regionally divided as other categories in the survey, although local governments in the Northeast and West did provide a higher percentage of 15-and 20-day vacations for employees after five years.

Most surveyed communities (63 percent) said they allow one day of sick leave per month for employees after one year on the job. After three years, many employees (17 percent) can expect 30 days of sick leave, a figure that increases to 18 percent after five years.

Regionally, local governments in the Southwest appear to be the most liberal with sick leave, as 96 percent say employees receive 12-15 days after one year of work. But the North Central states are easily the most lenient with sick leave time for employees with three to five years of experience, with 34 percent of local governments in that area allowing 30 or more sick days a year.

Population differences

Salaries and beneifts for public employees are also affected by the size of the community, the *American City and County* survey indicates. When the population exceeds 100,000, the salaries of mayors and city managers increase dramatically. The same holds true for financial directors, public works directors, engineers and attorneys.

For example, less than 30 percent of mayors and city or county managers in communities with populations under 10,000 earn more than $35,000 annually. That figure increases to 70 percent when the population is in the 25,000-100,000 range, and jumps to 90 percent for large local governments serving more than 100,000 people.

Conversely, salaries for positions such as administrative secretary, clerk and building inspector are less influenced by population size. Clerks, in particular, may earn more in smaller communities, with the exception of cities or counties of 500,000 or more people. In those larger areas, 27 percent of clerks represented in the survey earn $40,000 or more a year.

Other highlights of the survey include:

- More than 10 percent of those responding have no dental insurance coverage of any kind.
- Nearly 94 percent said sick leave can be carried over from year to year.
- While 70 percent indicate employees are given one performance review each year, 15 percent said they never gave such reviews. Another eight percent gave two reviews per employee a year.
- Of those communities included in the survey, 28 percent have 200-499 employees, 25 percent have 100-199, and only 11 percent employ less than 49 people. □

Salaries by Region

	Northeast	Mid Atlantic	Southeast	Midwest	Southwest	North Central	Western	National Average
Mayor, Administrator or Manager								
$25,000-34,999	15.9%	20.0%	25.7%	24.1%	21.4%	25.7%	12.1%	20.7%
$35,000 +	60.9	71.1	63.8	48.9	67.1	45.7	77.8	62.1
Director of Finance								
$20,000-29,999	34.7%	35.6%	35.2%	18.3%	32.9%	20.0%	21.3%	27.4%
$30,000 +	40.6	53.3	42.9	40.1	51.4	45.7	59.6	47.0
Director of Public Works								
$20,000-29,999	27.6%	22.2%	29.6%	20.4%	28.6%	17.2%	16.2%	23.2%
$30,000 +	50.7	55.5	48.6	47.5	51.4	51.4	67.7	53.0
Engineer								
To $29,999	21.8%	24.4%	32.4%	27.7%	18.6%	37.2%	24.2%	26.5%
$30,000 +	37.7	22.2	29.5	37.9	38.6	25.7	39.3	34.7
Attorney								
To $29,999	39.2%	24.5%	35.2%	38.0%	27.1%	28.6%	19.2%	31.2%
$30,000 +	26.1	31.0	21.9	28.5	32.8	31.5	48.5	31.4

Salaries by Community Population

	Under 10,000	10,000-24,999	25,000-49,999	50,000 99,999	100,000-249,999	250,000-499,999	500,000 +	National Average
Mayor, Administrator or Manager								
$25,000-34,999	36.4%	21.1%	16.6%	27.2%	4.7%	9.1%	0.0%	20.7%
$35,000 +	28.6	54.8	71.0	67.4	88.4	86.4	86.7	62.1
Director of Finance								
$20,000-29,999	35.1%	40.4%	22.8%	27.8%	7.0%	9.1%	0.0%	27.4%
$30,000 +	11.7	33.8	60.7	53.2	74.4	77.2	80.1	47.0
Director of Public Works								
$20,000-29,999	32.5%	33.2%	22.1%	15.2%	7.0%	4.6%	0.0%	23.2%
$30,000 +	16.9	43.4	59.6	66.3	81.4	77.3	86.7	53.0
Engineer								
To $29,999	20.8%	25.8%	26.3%	27.2%	35.0%	45.5%	6.7%	26.5%
$30,000 +	10.4	24.0	39.4	50.0	48.8	41.0	86.7	34.7
Attorney								
To $29,999	41.6%	43.3%	30.4%	21.8%	2.3%	22.7%	6.7%	31.2%
$30,000 +	6.5	14.4	33.8	46.8	69.8	63.6	73.4	31.4

Worth

(Continued from page 37)

women's salaries on the city work force. The Hay and Associates job evaluation firm was contracted. Their results indicated that female-dominated classes were paid an average of 2 percent to 10 percent below the overall trend, while male-dominated classes were paid 8 percent to 15 percent above the average. Municipal workers went on strike for nine days and forced the city to provide $1.5 million for pay-equity adjustments based on sex discrimination.

In 1982, the Minnesota legislature appropriated $21.7 million for restructuring of wages during fiscal 1984 and 1985 for around 7,400 state employees. In neither this, nor the San Jose case, were there resulting cutbacks in services and programs nor layoffs to cover the cost of the settlements as critics had feared. Minnesota, which reached its settlement through a consensus of organized labor, political leaders and private citizen groups, included marketplace wages in its revamped pay plan.

In 1983, the *American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) v. the State of Washington* case occurred. The case developed after a state-commissioned job study completed in 1976 revealed that female-dominated jobs were underpaid as much as $500 per month compared to male-dominated jobs. A federal district judge ruled in favor of the state employees and appointed a master to arrange a back pay settlement to 15,000 mostly women employees. This may carry a cost of more than $400 million over the next 18 months. The ruling was based on the premise that the comparable worth of different jobs can be quantified.

In 1984, labor and women's groups are pushing cases in 37 states and within the federal equal-employment agency. Besides Washington and Minnesota, the states of Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Idaho have completed studies of their civil-service systems. All of the studies have uncovered at least some sex bias. Investigations are being conducted in Alaska, Oregon, Montana, New Mexico, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts and Florida. Legislators in California, Washington, Minnesota and Iowa have enacted laws necessitating pay equity for comparable work in state jobs. Labor leaders contend that the expense of raising women's pay to levels comparable to men's can be held down if states negotiate adjustments with employees and avoid long court battles.

In 1984, the strongest of the congressional bills currently pending is the Pay Equity Act of 1984, introduced by Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (D-Ohio). This bill would require the Equal Employment

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** increased 0.3 percent for the month to 330.8. The rise in the overall cost index was due mainly to a 0.5 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index** and a 0.3 percent increase in the **ACC Construction Cost Index**.

The **Producer Price Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 311.4. Commodities with the largest increases in the *American City & County* listing included: asphalt roofing, electric lamps, glass containers, gypsum products, liquid petroleum gas, natural gas and trucks. □

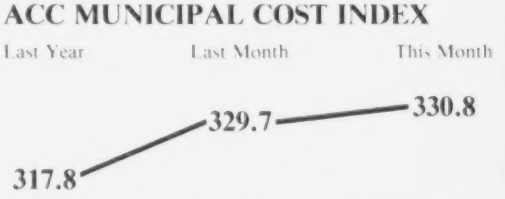
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.4	0.6	1.3
Apparel	200.3	−0.2	2.3
Asphalt Roofing	394.2	2.7	2.7
Books	125.9	0.5	5.2
Chemicals, Industrial	345.1	−0.3	1.9
Coal	543.0	−0.5	0.9
Concrete Products	308.8	0.8	2.6
Construction Machinery	357.6	0.5	1.9
Diesel Fuel	690.8	−5.9	6.3
Electric Components	190.6	−0.1	5.5
Electric Lamps	346.8	1.6	11.8
Electric Power	431.9	1.1	5.5
Engines, I.C.	343.1	0	0.3
Fans, Blowers	341.6	0	1.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	269.4	−0.4	3.6
Floor Coverings	187.4	−0.1	2.9
Flow Instruments	100.6	0	N/A
Footwear	251.8	−0.6	0.7
Foundry Products	359.6	0.8	2.1
Fuel Oil No. 2	713.2	−9.5	8.2
Furniture, Commercial	297.5	0.4	3.9
Gasoline	572.6	0.7	1.5
Generator Sets	339.3	0.4	4.4
Glass	229.5	−0.1	−0.1
Glass Containers	358.4	1.9	1.4
Gypsum Products	353.1	4.0	29.9
Hardware	293.6	0.1	1.7
Heating Equipment	250.3	0.6	3.3
HVAC Controls	120.3	−1.2	−2.5
LP Gas	663.1	1.7	−6.0
Lubricants	370.4	0.4	4.7
Lumber	369.6	0.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	309.3	0.3	2.2
Millwork	307.7	−0.6	1.6
Motor Vehicle Parts	352.2	0	−0.1
Mowers	257.9	0.7	2.9
Natural Gas	1404.8	1.7	−2.8
Office Machines	154.8	0.1	0.2
Paint	267.3	−0.1	1.0
Paper	300.6	0.5	7.9
Passenger Cars	222.0	0	2.6
Plumbing Fixtures	301.4	0.5	4.8
Plywood	244.0	−1.9	1.9
Portland Cement	351.9	−1.3	3.8
Pumps	349.3	0.5	0.3
Residual Fuel	1110.3	−0.5	9.3
Sand, Gravel	292.6	−0.2	3.6
Sanitary Papers	359.1	−0.5	−1.1
Soaps, Detergents	265.0	−0.2	1.0
Sporting Goods	205.6	−0.5	0.1
Steel Mill Products	364.3	0.2	4.2
Struc. Clay Products	284.3	0.2	3.1
Switchgear	271.7	0.5	−0.4
Tires, Tubes	243.2	0.4	−1.3
Transformers	226.4	0.2	0.4
Trucks	334.4	2.5	5.3
Valves	101.8	0.7	1.4
Wire, Cable	204.6	0	1.4
Wiring Devices	350.5	0.6	5.5

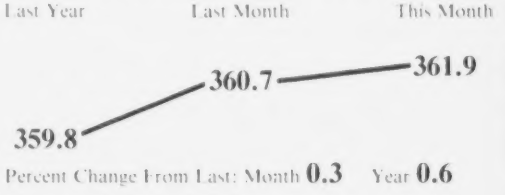
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



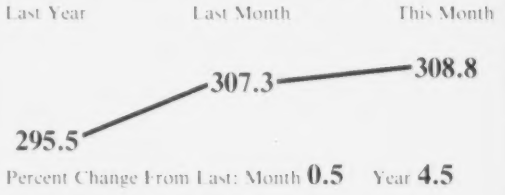
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **4.1**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



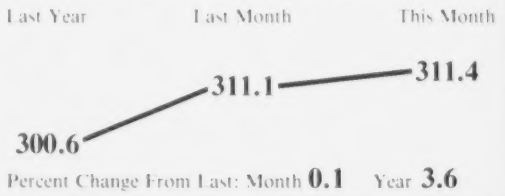
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **0.6**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.5** Year **4.5**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **3.6**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	500.7B	1.6	11.1
Federal Grants	86.4B	−0.9	1.6
Durable Purchases	14.7B	1.4	7.3
Consumables	33.2B	2.2	5.1
Services	337.8B	1.9	7.7
Structures	39.1B	−6.5	−5.8
Salaries, Wages	247.2B	1.9	7.7
Surplus	58.1B	4.7	76.6
Employment	12.965M	0.1	−0.7

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AUGUST, 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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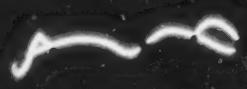

CONGRESSIONAL INFO SERVICE
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Managing Lighting & Energy Resources

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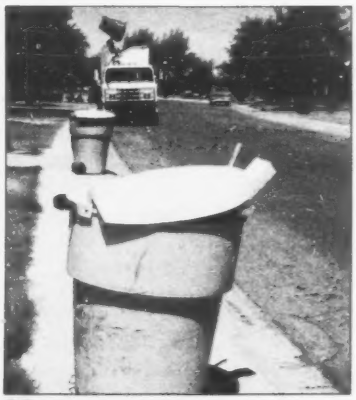
August 1984 Vol. 99, No. 8



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About the cover
Effective management of lighting and energy systems can take on different forms, as illustrated in this month's cover theme beginning on page 42. Photograph by Jeff Licata.

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.3 percent for the month to 331.9, due mainly to a 0.5 percent increase in the **ACC Construction Cost Index** and a 0.3 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**. The **Producer Price Index** rose only 0.1 percent to 311.7. Economists predict that higher interest rates will slow the nation's economy in the coming months.

Meanwhile, industrial output rose 0.4 percent, after climbing 1.1 percent the previous month, confirming that slower economic growth lies ahead.

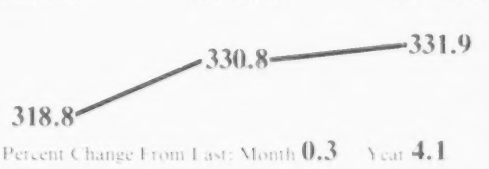
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.4	0.0	1.3
Apparel	201.2	0.4	2.4
Asphalt Roofing	396.8	0.7	4.4
Books	126.4	0.4	5.4
Chemicals, Industrial	344.8	−0.1	1.8
Coal	546.9	0.7	2.2
Concrete Products	309.6	0.3	2.8
Construction Machinery	357.8	0.1	1.6
Diesel Fuel	682.2	−1.2	4.5
Electric Components	191.2	0.3	5.7
Electric Lamps	341.7	−1.5	11.2
Electric Power	433.5	0.4	5.2
Engines, I.C.	344.7	0.5	0.3
Fans, Blowers	346.4	1.4	2.7
Fertilizers, Mixed	269.8	0.1	3.6
Floor Coverings	191.1	2.0	4.9
Flow Instruments	100.2	0.0	N/A
Footwear	251.8	0.0	1.2
Foundry Products	359.6	0.0	2.1
Fuel Oil No. 2	728.6	2.2	5.5
Furniture, Commercial	207.6	0.0	4.1
Gasoline	586.2	2.4	−0.1
Generator Sets	339.8	0.1	4.4
Glass	226.4	−1.4	−1.4
Glass Containers	361.2	0.8	2.7
Gypsum Products	360.9	2.2	30.9
Hardware	294.1	0.2	1.9
Heating Equipment	252.5	0.9	4.0
HVAC Controls	119.8	−0.4	−2.5
LP Gas	649.7	−2.0	−10.0
Lubricants	367.6	−0.8	4.3
Lumber	355.8	0.7	N/A
Metal Fabrications	310.6	0.4	2.8
Millwork	305.4	−0.7	2.1
Motor Vehicle Parts	352.9	0.2	0.1
Mowers	257.9	0.0	2.7
Natural Gas	1415.3	0.7	−1.5
Office Machines	154.4	−0.3	0.1
Paint	268.0	0.3	1.2
Paper	301.3	0.2	8.0
Passenger Cars	221.3	−0.3	1.9
Plumbing Fixtures	301.8	0.1	4.4
Plywood	235.4	−3.5	−2.4
Portland Cement	357.3	1.5	5.2
Pumps	348.3	−0.3	0.2
Residual Fuel	1142.9	2.9	15.7
Sand, Gravel	293.9	0.4	3.7
Sanitary Papers	363.5	1.2	0.5
Soaps, Detergents	264.1	−0.3	0.6
Sporting Goods	206.1	0.2	0.6
Steel Mill Products	364.9	0.2	4.3
Struc. Clay Products	285.0	0.2	2.7
Switchgear	272.7	0.4	0.0
Tires, Tubes	244.5	0.5	−0.7
Transformers	226.9	0.2	1.6
Trucks	334.7	0.1	7.0
Valves	102.0	0.0	1.3
Wire, Cable	203.0	−0.5	5.0
Wiring Devices	351.0	0.1	5.1

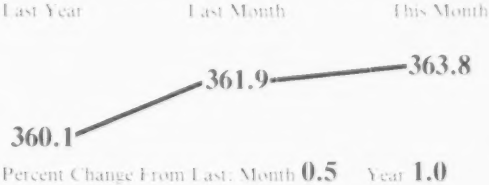
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



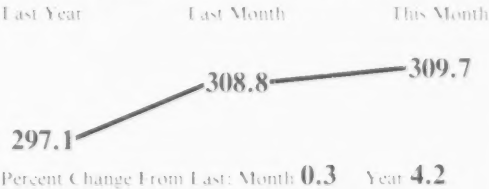
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **4.1**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



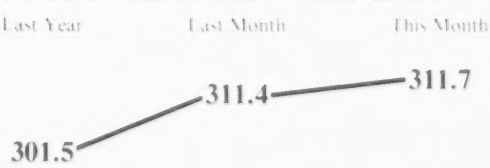
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.5** Year **1.0**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **4.2**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **3.4**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	500.7B	1.6	11.1
Federal Grants	89.6B	3.7	4.4
Durable Purchases	15.1B	2.7	8.6
Consumables	34.1B	0.3	10.7
Services	344.9B	2.1	7.8
Structures	41.5B	6.1	5.1
Salaries, Wages	252.3B	2.1	7.9
Surplus	58.1B	4.7	76.6
Employment	13.000M	0.3	0.1

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SEPTEMBER 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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75 Years of the Best of American City & County

An Historical Review of Local Government in America

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AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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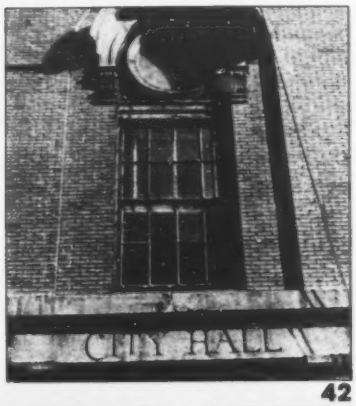
September 1984

Vol. 99, No. 9



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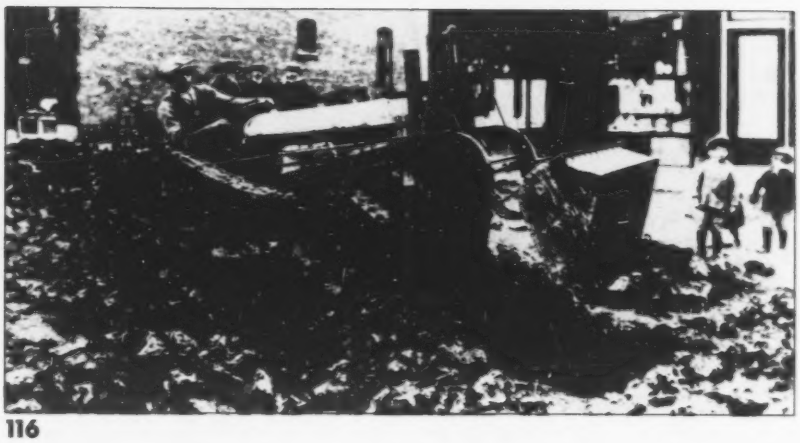

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1909 - 1984
75th
Anniversary

About the Cover

Seventy-five years ago, two men of vision published the first issue of a magazine they called *The American City*. Their goal was to produce a publication that would serve as the voice and conscience of local governments. This special issue commemorates those 75 years with reprints of some of the best articles that have appeared on these pages during the nearly eight decades we have served the needs of local governments.

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 332.2. The slight increase was due to a 0.1 percent decrease in the **Producer Price Index**, no change in the **ACC Construction Cost Index**, and a 0.3 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**.

Commodities with the largest decreases in this month's marketbasket include asphalt roofing, books, coal, footwear, liquified petroleum gas, lumber and portland cement. Commodities with the largest increases include diesel fuel, electric power, fuel oil, glass containers and wiring devices.

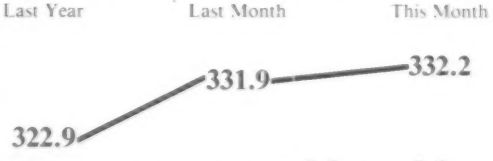
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.3	−0.1	1.0
Apparel	200.7	−0.2	1.4
Asphalt Roofing	392.3	−1.1	3.3
Books	125.7	−0.6	3.7
Chemicals, Industrial	345.5	0.2	2.1
Coal	543.3	−0.7	1.7
Concrete Products	310.0	0.1	2.8
Construction Machinery	358.1	0.1	1.6
Diesel Fuel	691.1	1.3	1.4
Electric Components	191.9	0.4	5.7
Electric Lamps	342.0	0.1	10.1
Electric Power	446.5	3.0	6.5
Engines, I.C.	344.5	−0.1	0.2
Fans, Blowers	350.3	1.1	3.8
Fertilizers, Mixed	269.3	−0.2	3.7
Floor Coverings	191.6	0.3	5.6
Flow Instruments	100.6	0.0	N/A
Footwear	250.3	−0.6	0.2
Foundry Products	360.6	0.3	2.6
Fuel Oil No. 2	740.5	1.6	1.9
Furniture, Commercial	297.0	−0.2	3.5
Gasoline	584.9	−0.2	−4.5
Generator Sets	340.2	0.1	5.2
Glass	227.3	0.4	−1.0
Glass Containers	366.0	1.3	4.0
Gypsum Products	360.3	−0.2	31.6
Hardware	295.0	0.3	1.2
Heating Equipment	251.3	−0.5	3.4
HVAC Controls	119.8	0.0	−0.4
LP Gas	646.1	−0.6	−9.4
Lubricants	370.0	0.7	6.0
Lumber	351.5	−1.2	N/A
Metal Fabrications	311.1	0.2	3.0
Millwork	305.2	−0.1	3.5
Motor Vehicle Parts	353.0	0.0	0.1
Mowers	257.1	−0.3	2.3
Natural Gas	1426.1	0.8	−0.9
Office Machines	154.4	0.0	0.3
Paint	270.8	1.0	2.3
Paper	301.4	0.0	7.8
Passenger Cars	220.9	−0.2	1.7
Plumbing Fixtures	302.0	0.1	3.9
Plywood	236.3	0.4	−7.5
Portland Cement	353.2	−1.1	3.6
Pumps	349.4	0.3	0.5
Residual Fuel	1150.1	0.6	11.2
Sand, Gravel	295.7	0.6	4.3
Sanitary Papers	362.9	−0.2	1.9
Soaps, Detergents	264.5	0.2	0.6
Sporting Goods	205.4	−0.3	0.4
Steel Mill Products	365.4	0.1	4.4
Struc. Clay Products	285.6	0.2	1.5
Switchgear	273.5	0.3	0.6
Tires, Tubes	243.5	−0.4	−0.1
Transformers	227.4	0.2	1.4
Trucks	334.7	0.0	7.0
Valves	102.0	0.0	1.9
Wire, Cable	203.4	0.2	−0.9
Wiring Devices	356.5	1.6	5.7

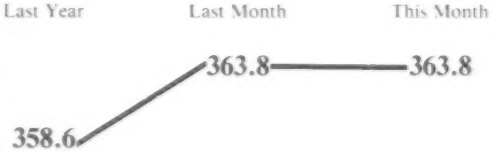
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **2.9**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **1.5**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **4.2**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.1** Year **3.0**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	514.3B	2.7	11.4
Federal Grants	90.4B	0.1	5.4
Durable Purchases	15.1B	2.7	8.6
Consumables	34.1B	0.3	10.7
Services	344.9B	2.1	7.8
Structures	41.5B	6.1	5.1
Salaries, Wages	252.3B	2.1	7.9
Surplus	60.9B	4.8	50.7
Employment	12.992M	−0.1	0.1

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OCTOBER 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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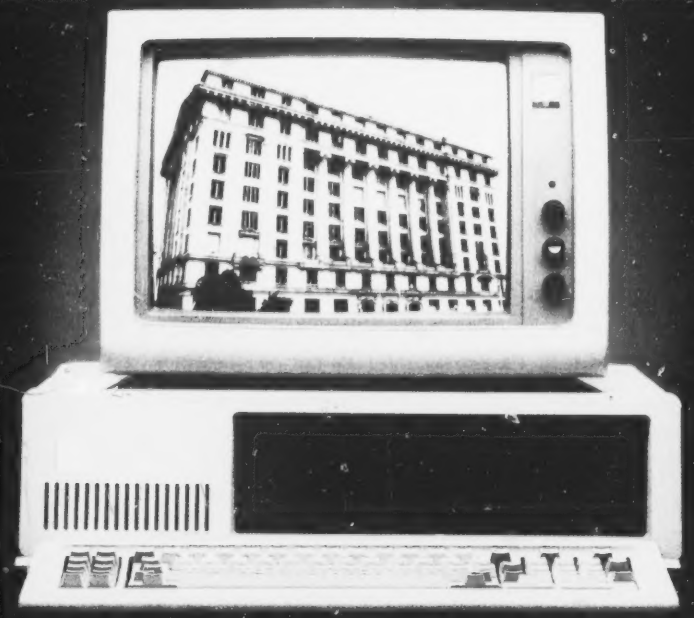

Opening the Door To Private Investors

Locking Into Today's Security Systems

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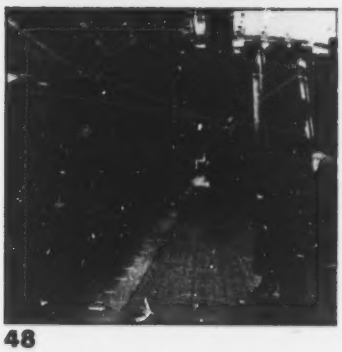

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About the Cover

As vandalism and terrorism increase, local governments are looking for more effective methods of security for public facilities. This month, we take a look at trends in security systems, including the use of computers and other technological innovations. (Photograph by Jeff Licata)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.2 percent for the month to 333.0. The index rise matched the increases in the **ACC Construction Cost Index** and the **Producer Price Index**. The **Consumer Price Index** rose 0.3 percent for the month to 311.7, resulting in a total increase of 4.6 percent since last year.

With three-quarters of fiscal 1984 complete, state and local governments are showing a budget surplus of $60.5 billion, a 49.8 percent increase from last year. In this month's marketbasket of commodities, electric lamps, gasoline, lp gas, lumber, and wire and cable lead price decliners.

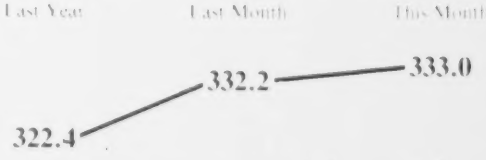
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.5	0.1	0.8
Apparel	201.9	0.6	1.8
Asphalt Roofing	392.6	0.1	1.9
Books	127.2	1.2	4.4
Chemicals, Industrial	345.7	0.1	0.4
Coal	546.8	0.6	2.2
Concrete Products	310.6	0.2	2.7
Construction Machinery	358.2	0.0	1.5
Diesel Fuel	697.3	0.9	2.1
Electric Components	275.0	0.5	1.3
Electric Lamps	336.3	1.7	7.4
Electric Power	453.9	1.7	6.4
Engines, I.C.	345.3	0.2	0.8
Fans, Blowers	351.0	0.2	4.0
Fertilizers, Mixed	268.6	0.3	3.5
Floor Coverings	191.4	0.1	2.6
Flow Instruments	100.8	0.2	N.A.
Footwear	250.1	0.1	0.1
Foundry Products	361.1	0.1	2.6
Fuel Oil No. 2	733.8	0.9	1.7
Furniture, Commercial	297.9	0.3	3.6
Gasoline	573.0	2.0	7.6
Generator Sets	340.3	0.0	1.6
Glass	227.4	0.0	1.0
Glass Containers	367.4	0.3	4.4
Gypsum Products	360.6	0.1	30.7
Hardware	295.8	0.3	1.3
Heating Equipment	254.7	1.4	4.0
HVAC Controls	192.3	0.2	3.6
LP Gas	633.9	1.9	12.8
Lubricants	369.6	-0.1	5.6
Lumber	343.3	2.3	N.A.
Metal Fabrications	311.6	0.2	3.1
Millwork	305.7	0.2	3.2
Motor Vehicle Parts	353.1	0.0	0.3
Mowers	257.5	0.2	1.6
Natural Gas	1437.8	0.8	1.2
Office Machines	154.2	0.1	0.1
Paint	274.1	1.2	3.4
Paper	307.9	2.2	10.3
Passenger Cars	221.1	0.1	1.7
Plumbing Fixtures	302.5	0.2	4.2
Plywood	237.1	0.3	6.1
Portland Cement	353.5	0.1	3.8
Pumps	349.9	0.1	0.6
Residual Fuel	1159.4	0.8	10.2
Sand, Gravel	297.0	0.4	4.8
Sanitary Papers	367.1	1.2	2.5
Soaps, Detergents	265.2	0.3	0.9
Sporting Goods	205.5	0.0	0.5
Steel Mill Products	367.8	0.7	4.8
Struc. Clay Products	285.7	0.0	1.2
Switchgear	275.0	0.5	1.3
Tires, Tubes	244.1	0.2	0.7
Transformers	227.9	0.2	1.9
Trucks	334.7	0.0	6.8
Valves	101.9	0.1	2.0
Wire, Cable	322.9	1.1	3.7
Wiring Devices	355.8	0.2	5.9

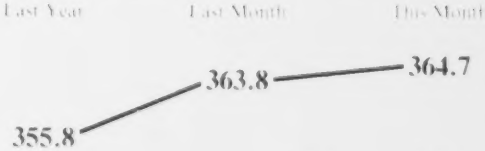
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



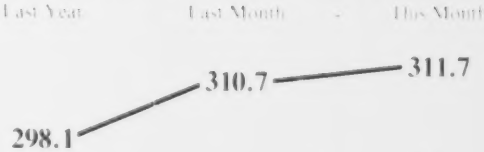
Percent Change From Last Month 0.2 Year 3.3

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



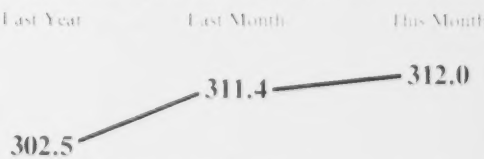
Percent Change From Last Month 0.2 Year 2.5

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last Month 0.3 Year 4.6

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last Month 0.2 Year 3.0

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	514.2B	-2.7	11.4
Federal Grants	90.4B	4.6	5.4
Durable Purchases	15.1B	2.7	8.6
Consumables	34.1B	0.3	10.7
Services	345.2B	2.2	7.9
Structures	41.3B	5.6	4.6
Salaries, Wages	252.3B	2.1	7.9
Surplus	60.5B	4.1	49.8
Employment	13.123M	0.0	0.2